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World Reaction to Iranian Airbus Downing Sampled

WA0707160088 [Editorial Report]

NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA

Iran—Iranian media were quick to react to the downing of Iran Air flight 655 over the Persian Gulf on 3 July. In its first commentary on the incident, Tehran Domestic Service described the "horrendous" American "crime" as a "new development" in U.S. attempts to "intimidate" Iran and "force it to compromise." The offical response from Tehran was also swift. A 3 July Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by Tehran radio urged international condemnation of the "anti-human U.S. action," which Foreign Minister Velayati, cited by IRNA, termed a "capital crime." For his part, Prime Minister Musavi, in remarks carried by IRNA, declared that America "would not stay immune from the consequences of 'this criminal act'." "Our response to the U.S. is long-term preparation until victory."

On 4 July, Tehran Domestic Service aired a letter from Velayati to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. In his note, the foreign minister asserted that the "aggressive attack" violated "all international rules and regulations, especially Clauses 1 and 2 of the 1944 Chicago Convention" on international civil aviation. He also asked for immediate UN condemnation and an on-site investigation. A subsequent Tehran radio commentary said the "criminal United States should know" that the "unlawfully shed blood" will be "avenged in the same blood-spattered sky over the Persian Gulf."

On the same day, in a message of condolence to Ayatollah Khomeyni, his designated successor, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, declared that it would be "befitting" for Khomeyni to "issue the necessary orders" to initiate "careful plans" for a "principled fight against the main enemy, the United States." He explained that the struggle should encompass the "political, economic, cultural and military fronts," adding that a "full-scale war against the United States cannot be fought with slogans and propaganda campaigns alone." "Cores of resistance inside and outside the country" should make "financial, political, economic, and military interests the targets of their struggle." In an announcer-read reply, Khomeyni asserted that "officials of the system must concentrate all their efforts toward the war," and "endeavor to create massive developments in all war-related issues," with "all going toward the fronts for an all-out war against the United States and its lackeys."

Among other Iranian reaction on 4 July, President Khamene'i, interviewed by Tehran radio, referred to the "mad rage and hatred" of the United States, which led to "violent and disgraceful terrorism," for which the U.S. Government "will have to suffer the consequences." In a similar vein, Foreign Minister Velayati, addressing diplomats in remarks reported by Tehran Domestic Service, stated that "the consequences" of the U.S. presence in the Gulf will be borne by America and "those countries that have invited or facilitated its presence."

On 5 July, in a speech to parliament, its speaker, Hojjat-ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, characterized the downing of the plane as "a disaster unprecedented in contemporary history," adding that "we will not allow ourselves to refrain from taking revenge, and the choice of time is up to us, not the United States." Prime Minister Musavi, in a message to the leaders of 24 countries summarized by IRNA, noted that the presence of the U.S. fleet had "seriously endangered the security of regional nations." He pointed out that "the Iranian Government considers the Reagan administration responsible for the crime," and appealed to world leaders to "react properly" so as to prevent similar incidents.

Observing military maneuvers, President Khamene'i, in statements transmitted by IRNA on 6 July, promised a "firm response" to the incident. Tehran radio cited Khamene'i as pledging "total engagement against this very harsh, disastrous, and savage American action." In an apparent reference to President Reagan's declaration that the United States considers the matter closed, Khamene'i said that not only was the case "not finished," but that "it is only the start of the affair." He then went on to highlight Iran's right "to give an appropriate response" to the "disaster."

In a later commentary, Tehran Domestic Service alleged that "it is now revealed" that the "USS Vincennes" had "previously endangered" lives "about a month ago" by tracking "civilian aircraft." By "putting all the blame" on the "Vincennes," the station explained, President Reagan was opposing the notion that it was the American presence in the Gulf that had "caused" such "painful incidents." On the same day, IRNA claimed that "firm evidence" existed "lending credence" to the theory that the downing was a "deliberate act" by the vessel, which was said to have a "dark record of U.S. state terrorism." The emphasis on premeditation continued when Prime Minister Musavi, in remarks reported by IRNA, spoke of "documented evidence of a joint plot" by the United States and Iraq regarding this "unmanly" act. While stating that the attack would not go unanswered, Musavi added that "proper reaction" by the world "would be effective in preventing" similar tragedies on the future.

Finally, in remarks carried by the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA but not monitored from Iranian media, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Larijani "admitted" to the Austrian newspaper KURIER that the pilot of the Iranian airliner "did not pay attention to warnings by American warships," as he was "busy with many things in the cockpit." **Iraq**—Baghdad media coverage of the loss of Iran Air flight 655 has been limited. On 4 July, Baghdad INA transmitted a report citing Iranian opposition leader Mas'ud Rajavi as holding the Khomeyni regime responsible for the downing of the airliner due to its insistence on continuing the war. Two days later, in

another INA dispatch on a speech by President Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president accused Khomeyni of reiterating his "evil intentions" against Arabs, Muslims, and human values "in his reply to Montazeri following the occurrence of the regrettable incident involving the Iranian passenger plane." Saddam Husayn concluded that Khomeyni's message was a reminder to the world of his "subversive course". **Syria**—An "official source" cited by Damascus radio on 4 July noted that Syria had learned of the loss of the Iran Air plane "with amazement, pain, and disgust." The same source characterized the incident as an "atrocious crime." Commentary by the official press has been equally strident. In its 5 July press review, the station quoted AL-THAWRAH, which claimed that the action was "premeditated," and that the United States is the "number one terrorist state in the world and the leader of this terrorism." On the same day, another Damascus paper, AL-BA'TH, alleged that the U.S.-NATO military presence in the Gulf would threaten the region with "devastating consequences" as long as the United States continued to "interfere in its affairs." **Egypt**—The first official response to the downing of the Iranian airliner was a statement on 4 July by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid expressing his regret at the loss of the plane. MENA said he affirmed that the incident "manifests the dangers facing the peoples of the Gulf," and called for the international community to establish a just peace quickly. This was followed by a MENA piece on a statement by the Soviet ambassador in Cairo linking such incidents to the presence of U.S. and other Western military forces in the Gulf.

On the same day, a Cairo television commentator described the event as an example of the "tragic escalation" resulting from the "Israeli policy of prolonging the Gulf war." The commentator explained that American units "mistook the airliner for a military jet" and shot it down "by mistake." In a 5 July commentary, Cairo radio took a different line, claiming that similiar incidents will occur as long as the Gulf war continues, which, in turn, was blamed on the "behavior of Iranian rulers." In another commentary on 6 July, the station agreed that the incident showed the urgent need to end the war, "whatever the truth" about conflicting U.S. and Iranian claims over the cause of the downing. **Israel**—In statements reported by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said "the United States should not be blamed for the downing of the Iranian airplane because the incident was caused by human error." Vice Prime Minister Peres, in comments broadcast by the radio, expressed sorrow over the incident, noting: "It was a very unfortunate event, probably a human error." Peres also voiced his belief that the downing would have no "direct repercussions for Israel."

All major Israeli papers carried editorials and comments on the incident in their 5 July editions. Among them, the independent paper HADASHOT blamed Iran for the accident, asserting: "Anybody condemning the Americans had better ask himself why the Iranian airliner ventured into the battle zone, why the aircraft's captain refused to identify himself, and why the plane was flying so low." THE JERUSALEM POST expressed concern that Tehran would "use the airline tragedy to trigger new desperate acts of international violence," highlighting its own certainty that the U.S. Government will want to offer material compensation to the victims' families, even if it is firmly established that "local U.S. commanders had sufficient reason to suspect a hostile military aircraft." **Saudi Arabia**—On 4 July, at the end of a regularly scheduled newscast, Riyadh Domestic Service carried a brief item on Iranian rescue attempts after the loss of the Iran Air plane. This was followed several hours later by a report on King Fahd's call for greater "vigilance and alertness" against "any sudden incident." For its part, the news agency SPA cited the Kingdom's expression of "regret" over the episode. While offering condolences to the families of the victims, Saudi Arabia was said to be looking forward to a "swift end" to the conflicts in the region in order to avert "more dangers and calamities in the Gulf area."

The Manama news agency WAKH on 5 July noted the following comment, which appeared in an editorial published on the same day in the Medina Arabic-language newspaper AL-MADINAH: "The current tension in the Gulf and the dangers threatening the region were imposed by the Iranian regime's policy of piracy toward merchant ships belonging to neutral, nonbelligerent states." The paper added that such "negative developments would not have occurred had the Iranian rulers accepted the peace advocated by Iraq and supported by all peace-loving countries." **Kuwait**—Quoting a "responsible source" at the Foreign Ministry on 4 July, Kuwait radio noted the government's "extreme regret and sorrow" at the downing of the Iranian airliner. According to KUNA, the ministry believed the "tragic incident" was the result of the "continuing tense situation in this region."

In a 6 July KUNA summary of press comment, heightened tension was again seen as the "real cause" of the incident, which threatened "more and bigger tragedies." However, the KUWAIT TIMES warned the United States that it has done "precious little to show it shares the distress" of the bereaved. AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, normally known for its anti-American views, advised Iran against retaliation, as that would "breed a spiral of reprisals" claiming additional civilian lives. An earlier KUNA press review on 5 July cited AL-SIYASAH as holding Iran "partly responsible" for the incident due to its "constant refusal to abide by peace calls." The KUWAIT TIMES was said to have urged Tehran to "seize the occasion and accept peace." **Libya**—After several factual reports on 3 July citing Iranian sources, the official news agency JANA noted the American admission of responsibility for the "horrible crime" and "ugly massacre," which were described as the latest case of American "state terrorism." A commentator for the news agency appealed for "firm and responsible" international pressure on the United States to "withdraw its fleets and its military bases wherever they may be." A

Foreign Liaison Bureau statement transmitted by JANA on 4 July repeated the call for the withdrawal of "all foreign fleets" from the Gulf. In a second declaration from the Foreign Liaison Bureau cited by JANA, addressed to the diplomatic corps on 5 July, "all states" were asked to "work for the withdrawal of American fleets from the Mediterranean and the Arab Gulf." **Lebanon**—Initial Lebanese reaction to the incident was dominated on 5 July by reports from various radios that the Islamic Jihad organization had decided to execute an American hostage to avenge the loss of Iranian lives. The French news agency AFP added that analysts did not take the threat seriously, as it was not accompanied by photographs of any captives. The agency also cited Shi'ite religious leader Shaykh Fadlallah as saying the episode did not justify the taking of additional Western hostages.

The only monitored reaction from official Lebanese sources came from acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, who, according to Beirut radio, felt "the enormity of the tragedy" was greater because the plane had been downed by U.S. forces. Other prominent figures took a harsher line. Quoted by the same radio, Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, termed the event a "criminal massacre," while the leader of the Amal movement, Minister Nabih Birri, sent a cable to Ayatollah Khomeyni referring to the attack as "a human scandal by U.S. hands." The Political Bureau of the leftist Druze PSP denounced the incident as a reflection of "U.S. contempt for human values," according to the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio. **Jordan**—No official statements on the Iran Air incident have been monitored from Jordanian media. However, in its reporting on the affair, Amman Domestic Service has tended to emphasize the "inadvertent" nature of the event, which occurred while the "USS Vincennes" was in a "defensive position." On 4 July, the radio claimed that the international community saw the attack as confirmation of the "urgent need to end the Iraq-Iran conflict and achieve peace in the region so that such a tragic incident will not recur." While coverage by the Amman Arabic-language press has been virtually devoid of comment, in a 4 July article in AL-RA'Y, columnist Masarwah drew a parallel with the South Korean plane brought down by the Soviets, pointing out that Jordan condemned that attack in the UN Security Council. In contrast, a 5 July editorial in the English-language daily JORDAN TIMES said: "The U.S. must accept the major part of the blame for the accident and must recognize that military prowess is not the answer to all political or human dilemmas." **Bahrain**—In a declaration summarized by Manama WAKH on 4 July, a Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed Bahrain's "regret and sorrow" to the families of those lost aboard Iran Air flight 655. The government, he added, sees the incident as a "clear example of the tension and threat to regional security and stability resulting from the Iraq-Iran war." The spokesman concluded by voicing Bahrain's wish for a speedy end to the Gulf conflict.

Among the press comment, WAKH cites an editorial in the 4 July edition of the Manama daily AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ. According to WAKH, the paper attributed the incident to Iran's insistence on continuing the war, and praised the "moral courage" of the United States in admitting its own mistake. That admission, the paper wrote, has "contributed to containing the effects of the incident and settling its consequences." **UAE**—On 4 July, a Foreign Ministry official, in a statement noted by Manama WAKH, expressed "deep sorrow and grief" at the recent U.S. naval action in the Gulf. The UAE, he declared, felt the "tragic incident" was a result of the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. The spokesman also reaffirmed the UAE's call for implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 on the conflict.

In a 5 July editorial reported by Manama WAKH, the leftist paper Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ accused the United States of "turning the region into an explosive furnace as a result of its policies of aggression." The United States sees the Middle East as an "exclusive American lake where no one can swim, not even the peoples of the area themselves." **India**—The Indian Government has "deplored" the downing of an Iranian civilian aircraft. In a statement by a spokesman for the External Affairs Ministry, reported by Delhi radio on 4 July, the use of military force against a "clearly civilian target" was "unjustified." The spokesman called on the U.S. Administration to "thoroughly investigate the circumstances" of the action and "identify those responsible for it." The radio also said that Prime Minister Gandhi had conveyed "heartfelt sympathies" in a message to his Iranian counterpart over "the act of violence perpetrated" on 3 July. **Pakistan**—In a message to his Iranian counterpart, cited by Islamabad Domestic Service on 4 July, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said "the tragedy" represented by the loss of the Iranian plane "appalled and grieved" him "beyond any measure." The president described the circumstances surrounding the incident, in which four Pakistanis died, as "highly regrettable and reprehensible." He appealed to the United States to initiate an inquiry and punish those responsible for this "unpardonable deed." **Bangladesh**—A Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by Dhaka radio on 5 July, expressed "deep shock" at the downing of the Iranian Airbus. He said his government "deplored the loss of many valuable lives," and emphasized Bangladesh's "deep anxiety at the tension" in the region. **Afghanistan**—In the sole monitored Afghan reaction to the downing of Iran Air flight 655, the English-language service of the official news agency BAKHTAR transmitted a "statement" on 6 July asserting that the United States "provides all-sided grounds for the international terrorism." The statement recommended the withdrawal of U.S. forces and those of other nations not bordering the Gulf.

SOVIET UNION

The Airbus incident was first reported at 1100 GMT on 3 July by Moscow's English-language broadcast service, citing IRNA. A similar item was carried by TASS English

at 1149 GMT, picked up by Moscow in Russian at 1300 GMT, and then by Radio Peace and Progress in Arabic at 1330 GMT. U.S. claims to have downed an F-14 were mentioned in hourly broadcasts beginning with the 1500 GMT Moscow World Service in English. Moscow television's "Vremya" newscast repeated the IRNA reports, adding related clips of Dubayy television film. Moscow in English at 2000 GMT noted President Reagan's admission of U.S. responsibility, which it said "avoids the capital issue": how the mistake could have been made. TASS English at 2033 GMT on 3 July cited Admiral Crowe as having admitted the plane had been shot down and having said that the United States "deeply regrets" the incident. The TASS report noted State Department alerts to most embassies regarding "special" security measures. President Reagan's statement on the incident wass the lead item on the World Service in English 2100 GMT 3 July broadcast and the Spanish broadcast.

TASS in English at 0615 GMT on 4 July cited comments by U.S. Democratic Party presidential candidates Dukakis and Jackson, expressing "deep regret" over the downing. A report on the Iranian recovery of bodies was the second item on the Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 4 July broadcast, including a brief mention of Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati's statement placing "full responsibility" on the United States. A commentary carried on the broadcast, the first monitored since the incident occurred, questioned whether the downing was accidental. It asserted that U.S. commanders in the Gulf "have apparently been losing control of their actions more and more," and asked whether the incident will lead Reagan to realize that U.S. ships "should be withdrawn from the Gulf." TASS English at 1023 GMT on 4 July reported that First Deputy Foreign Minister Vorontsov received the Iranian ambassador to discuss the downing.

A TASS Russian commentary at 1010 GMT on the same day reported "feverish" attempts in Washington to "justify" the downing as "defense from possible attack." Aleksandr Pogodin, in a Moscow World Service commentary carried at 1110 GMT on 4 July, described U.S. accounts of the "tragic event" as ranging from "outright lies to cynical self-justification." "I am deeply convinced," the commentator said, that the act "was deliberate mass murder in cold blood" and that it is "futile" for the attack to be compared to "the termination" of the Korean Airline flight over the USSR, which had been flying over Soviet territory for a long time "despite warnings." This commentary was repeated in nine subsequent broadcasts in six languages.

Iran's protest to the United Nations was reported by the World Service at 1300 GMT on 4 July. At 1326 GMT, TASS English carried the Supreme Soviet Presidium's message to the Iranian president offering "profound and sincere condolences upon the tragic death of the passengers and crew of an Iranian airliner shot down by a missile from a U.S. naval ship." This was the first monitored high-level official Soviet statement on the incident, and it was widely relayed by both European and Asian radio beams.

A "TASS statement" carried by TASS English at 1347 GMT on 4 July declared that the downing was "far from accidental" and reinforces the need for the U.S. Navy to "leave the Persian Gulf without delay." The TASS statement was also widely reported on various Moscow radio beams.

Moscow in Arabic at 1400 GMT that day carried the Iranian protest to the United Nations as its lead item, but only the first two items concerned the incident. Radio Peace and Progress in English to Asia gave the incident sixth place in a 10-item broadcast at 1400 GMT. The Supreme Soviet condolences were picked up by various Moscow broadcasts as their lead or second item, but treatment of the issue was generally brief. The TASS statement was also picked up as the lead item for English and French broadcasts. Foreign Ministry spokesman Gerasimov was reported by TASS Russian at 1730 GMT as pointing out that the Airbus was shot down "in broad daylight in excellent visibility," unlike the Korean airliner in 1983. Also on 4 July, Moscow broadcasts in Indonesian, Hindi, Cambodian, Tamil, Lao, and Vietnamese carried two commentaries on the downing of the Iran Air jet. In one, Aleksandr Pogodin described the downing as "murder" and rejected President Reagan's "excuses." He declared that, contrary to President Reagan's claims, this action proves that the United States really does not want peace in the Gulf. In the second commentary, Stanislav Vasilyev said that the downing was not accidental, as it was a direct consequence of the U.S. naval presence in the Gulf. He called for the withdrawal of foreign navies from the region and for UN supervision of international shipping lanes.

In addition to numerous TASS items, Moscow Television Service carried three commentaries on the incident. The first, by Igor Goranskiy in the "World Today" program on 4 July, noted that the tragedy has caused a "wave of indignation throughout the world" and said that "it is difficult to believe that a huge passenger plane was mistaken for a small fighter." The second, by Aleksandr Serikov in the "Novosti" 2200 GMT newscast, pointed out that this action could lead to Iranian retaliation and noted that many countries have called for the implementation of measures to prevent an armed conflict in the Gulf.

Initial Soviet press reaction to the 3 July downing of the Iran Air Airbus fell into two basic categories: the charge that the United States had perpetrated a "monstrous crime" and "terrorist act" (PRAVDA), and had resorted to "irresponsible, criminal actions" (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA) and a "barbarous action" (TRUD); and consideration of the political and technical implications of the incident for both the Gulf region and the entire world in terms of the potential for escalation to a large-scale crisis.

On 5 July, PRAVDA's Second Edition devoted half of page 5 to reports and commentaries on the 3 July aircraft downing. Under a prominent headline—"Missiles Against Passengers!"—the paper prefaced its feature with a group of subordinate captions published in boldface characterizing the incident as, inter alia, a "Terrorist Act by the U.S. Navy," a "Monstrous Crime in the Persian Gulf," and a "Barbarous Action by the United States."

A TASS report from Nicosia published in 5 July's PRAVDA cited the initial reactions of Iranian Prime Minister Musavi and Foreign Minister Velayati and Tehran radio, and was followed by a 4 July Washington dispatch from the paper's own correspondent, Vitaliy Gan, who began by saying that "cold-blooded murder has been perpetrated in the sky over the Persian Gulf." Gan then focused on the "propaganda" operation begun by "official Washington" to find versions of the incident that could be presented to the public. He cited the reference in a news conference held by Admiral W. Crowe, chief of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, to "extenuating circumstances," and added that Crowe accused Iran "virtually of a deliberate provocation." Summarizing the explanations given and citing the technical sophistication of the "USS Vincennes," the correspondent wrote that, in the light of the facts that accumulated throughout the day, "even to a nonspecialist these arguments sound naive at best." He viewed the White House response, with President Reagan both expressing "deep regret over the 'terrible human tragedy'" and labeling the incident "an appropriate defensive act," as an attempt "to smooth out the obvious 'discrepancies' in the explanations."

In an accompanying commentary, PRAVDA observer Tomas Kolesnichenko stated that "a crime has been committed" and declared that the U.S. missiles "also blew apart the provisions of international law, commonsense, and the principles of nonuse of force and noninterference in other peoples' affairs." Kolesnichenko noted that when Admiral Crowe was asked at a news conference about the "the difference between the present incident and the incident involving the Korean aircraft" he "resorted to sheer distortion of the facts" and "turned everything upside down." The PRAVDA observer went on to state that it would be "absurd" to accept the U.S. President's claim that the United States is only interested in peace in the Gulf. "Peace will not be achieved by such methods," he wrote. Attempts to justify what took place, he said, "show what a danger is posed to mankind by American forces in areas remote from the United States." The incident was "preprogrammed," he claimed, inasmuch as the Gulf's militarization and the U.S. and allied naval concentration there represent a "loaded gun" with "the hammer inexorably cocked." Another "far-reaching" question in Kolesnichenko's view is that of the implications of the apparent failure of U.S. technology: "If the latest electronic equipment failed to distinguish a cumbersome, slow-moving Airbus from a supersonic fighter, what guarantee is there," he asked, "that in the future the much-vaunted SDI supercomputers will not make the same mistake, with unpredictable consequences? It is clearly also time that America matched the frontiers of its Armed Forces to its own territory."

In a 5 July KRASNAYA ZVEZDA article, V. Pustov also cited Soviet warnings of the "most dangerous consequences" that could ensue from the ongoing increase in the U.S. and allied presence in the Gulf. After observing how "very belated" were the "'profound regrets'" voiced in Washington, Pustov added that the "terrible tragedy" "can in no way be regarded as purely accidental." Noting that the Soviet Union put forward a "constructive initiative" to tackle the "difficult situation" in the region, Pustov said that Washington and other NATO capitals failed to come up with a positive response. He declared that, despite the tragedy, the U.S.Administration plans no changes in a Persian Gulf policy initiated by former U.S. Secretary of the Navy Lehman, which, in the words of THE WASHINGTON POST, has increased to an exceptional degree not only the possibility of serious clashes in international waters but the danger that such clashes could escalate and develop into a nuclear conflict.

TRUD on 5 July carried a "specialist's opinion" by Candidate of Juridical Sciences V. Bordunov, senior scientific associate of the USSR Academy of Sciences State and Law Institute, who disputed the U.S.claim of a "technical error." After dicussing the ways in which civil or military aircraft are identified, he declared that "the Americans knew what they were dealing with." He accused the United States of violating the 1984 amendment to Article 3 of the Chicago convention, to the effect that "every state must refrain from using weapons against civil aircraft in flight," and concluded that the "gross violation of this important principle of international air law.. gives grounds for qualifying the U.S. behavior as unlawful, with all ensuing consequences." The trade unions' central governing body, the AUCCTU, issued a statement, carried in the same issue of TRUD, which declaring that "there can be no justification for this barbarous action." The statement demanded an end to the "provocative maneuvers" by U.S. Armed Forces in the Gulf, which "threaten a grave exacerbation of the military-political situation in this region and throughout the world."

The issue of foreign reaction to the incident was raised in 5 July's KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, which claimed that "some British mass media (and primarily BBC television) are responding...in a highly peculiar fashion" designed "to justify the actions of their main allies, the Americans." Prime Minister Thatcher's expression of "profound regret" over the loss of life is juxtaposed with her "full support" for the Americans' actions, which she described as "self-defense," the paper added.

In the "Review of World Developments" on the World Service in English at 0310 GMT on 5 July, commentator Yuriy Reshetnikov asserted that "for practical purposes" the United States "is currently in a state of war with Iran," "whether it wishes or not." The "longstanding" Soviet proposal to install an international force to protect Gulf shipping "is not likely to be accepted any time soon," he continued. He concluded, citing a Western analyst, that the United States should reduce the size of its Gulf force.

Commentator Pogodin, also speaking on the World in Service English at 1110 GMT, reported "clear indications the United States does not intend to assess the tragedy in realistic terms and draw the necessary conclusions," even though "a crime has been committed, a deliberate crime."

A Moscow radio Russian-language commentary at 1500 GMT on 5 July made the point that the "much-praised U.S. military technolgy is far from perfect...if it is incapable of distinguishing a regular airbus from a combat aircraft."

Iran's request for an emergency Security Council meeting on the incident was reported by Moscow English at 1900 GMT on 5 July. TASS English at 1931 GMT reported without comment President Reagan's statement that in downing the airbus the United States had acted upon its "inherent right to self-defense" and his assertion that he considered the incident "closed."

On 5 July, in the only signed commentary observed on Moscow radio's broadcasts in Portuguese to Brazil, Aleksandr Pogodin told Brazilian listeners: "I am sure it was a crime, a programmed crime." Pogodin added: "I want to say this crime is a direct consequence of the policy Washington is pursuing in the Persian Gulf: a policy of force and of the increase of tensions." No signed commentaries were observed on Moscow radio's broadcasts in Spanish to Chile, but an anonymous commentary on 5 July said that "the entire world" reacted with "indignation and condemnation of the policy" that made the incident possible, calling it "a direct consequence of U.S. military actions during the last year to reinforce its presence in the Persian Gulf."

Moscow broadcasts in Indonesian, Hindi, Cambodian, Tamil, Lao, and Vietnamese carried repeats of the previous day's Aleksandr Pogodin commentary on 5 July, as well as a TASS statement reiterating the theme that the downing was the direct result of the U.S. naval presence in the Gulf.

A television commentary by Igor Fesunenko in the "World Today" program on 5 July noted that "statements of disgust and condemnation of the United States" are streaming in from all continents and that "stormy protest demonstrations," regarding not only this "criminal action" but the U.S. military presence in the Gulf, are being staged before many U.S. embassies.

Treatment of the downing in all monitored broadcasts on 5 July was brief, and in most cases it was not the lead item. "Vremya" television newscasts tended to carry these items well down in their presentations.

IZVESTIYA on 6 July publishes a commentary attributed to V. Ivanov, who described the airbus downing as a "natural consequence" of U.S. policy. The past year has shown, he said, that the "massive U.S. presence and the use of force are not conducive to safe navigation." The purpose of the U.S. presence is "to demonstrate U.S. might and keep the Persian Gulf within the Western sphere of influence." In the author's opinion, the incident is evidence of the "tremendous threat inherent in regional conflicts," with the possibility that "any incident" could trigger a crisis. An IZVESTIYA press service item, carried on the same page, reported the continuing search for bodies, provided extracts from the statement made by Captain Will Rogers, and noted the dispatch of a special investigation group to the Gulf region. U.S. analysts were cited as predicting serious complications in the regional situation but no change in administration policy. IZVESTIYA reported Bush and Dukakis as having "on the whole supported the administration's explanation and position on this question," with the former "fully" justifying the captain's actions and the latter urging Iran "to cease its threats against the United States and its Western allies." The V. Ivanov commentary also cited Jesse Jackson's assertion that the downing of the airliner resulted not from equipment or computer failure but from "the failure of administration policy."

TASS English on 6 July carried a dispatch by correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko noting that President Reagan had made "his third statement" in 2 days on the downing, this one in the form of a message to the speaker of the House and the president pro tempore of the Senate. The dispatch characterized the message as "an attempt to justify" the commander's actions. The same report suggested that a 5 July news conference held by a Pentagon spokesman "was also aimed at attempting to justify" the Navy's actions, but failed to explain how its "most sophisticated equipment" could not distinguish an airliner from a fighter. The report, too, cited U.S. presidential aspirant Jesse Jackson's comment that the incident involved "a political blunder" rather than a "technical" one.

TASS English reported on 6 July that Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy minister of foreign affairs, had visited the Iranian Embassy in Moscow to sign the condolence book. TASS English later reported that a memorial ceremony over the "tragic event" was held at the embassy and was attended by diplomats in Moscow.

In comments also carried by TASS English, an Aeroflot instructor pilot questioned how the incident could have occurred, given that the cruiser was "studded with electronic equipment." The pilot added that circumstances notwithstanding, the downing was a "sequel" to

the "unprecedented build-up" of U.S. military might in the Gulf. He added that "commonsense" dictates that tension in the Gulf can be eased only by reducing the military presence there.

Commentator Aleksandr Pogodin, in remarks carried by Moscow World Service in English on the same day, said that President Reagan's declaration that the United States considers the matter closed is a view "not shared by the rest of the world." Pogodin said that "official" Washington's "obvious desire" to close the case "varies sharply" from the demands of other countries. Concluding, Pogodin stated that "Washington's efforts to compel the interntional community to reconcile itself to the crime are futile."

Drawing a parallel between the Iranian Airbus downing and the crash of a civilian aircraft in Nicaragua, Moscow World Service correspondent Mayorov concluded that "wherever Washington builds up tension and tries to solve problems by military means, unprotected civilians, above all women and children, suffer."

Moscow broadcasts to Latin America and Cuba reported the TASS statement on the incident on 6 July. Commentaries were also carried by these radios, as well as by Radio Peace and Progress in Spanish, that criticized U.S. policy in the Gulf. A representative commentary on Moscow's beam to Cuba said that U.S. servicemen in the Gulf are "victims of a warmongering psychosis" and cannot distinguish between military planes and "huge" civilian aircraft. The commentary called on the U.S. administration to withdraw U.S. forces from the Persian Gulf.

Moscow International Service in Vietnamese carried an unattributed commentary on 6 July in which the commentator stated that he is "firmly convinced that this is a crime and, more precisely, a premeditated crime." As evidence, he declared "that with their tremendous electronic capabilities there is no way that U.S. vessels can mistake one type of aircraft for another." Finally, echoing earlier commentaries, he said that "the crime is a direct consequence of the policy of force and creation of tension that Washington exercises in the Persian Gulf area."

EAST EUROPE

Bulgaria—State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov and Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov met in Sofia on 5 July with the American UN representative, Vernon Walters, Sofia radio reported. During the meeting, Mladenov "expressed the Bulgarian Government's concern over the tragic incident and confirmed Bulgaria's position in favor of withdrawing the military ships of all countries from the Persian Gulf region." Official reaction continued on 5 July with a 190-word "declaration" from the official news agency BTA. The declaration stated that the "responsibility for this tragic incident falls entirely on the American side," and expressed the Bulgarian people's "sympathy" for the victims.

Press comment included a short article by Georgi Nikolov in the 5 July edition of RABOTNICHESKO DELO entitled "'Tragic Mistake' or Crime," which asserted that the "roots of the human tragedy lie in the presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf." **Czechoslovakia**—The Foreign Ministry "resolutely condemned" the American attack on Iran Air flight 655 as "absolutely unjustifiable," and at variance with Point 5 of the July 1987 UN Resolution on the Iran-Iraq war, CTK reported. A 4 July commentary on Bratislava radio said the "terrorist" attack in the Gulf had "nothing in common" with the downing of KAL flight 007 by the USSR in defense of its airspace. On 5 July, the Communist Party paper RUDE PRAVO published a 550-word commentary entitled: "Lesson Taught By Tragedy." The paper explains that the lesson lies in an American military pullout from the Persian Gulf, and an end to the Iraq-Iran war, which would deprive the United States of an excuse to "meddle." **GDR**—In a statement transmitted by the official news agency ADN on 4 July, the Foreign Ministry described the incident in the Persian Gulf as a "flagrant breach of international law," proving the urgent need to "end this interference" in the region. On the same day, ADN carried a telegram of sympathy from State Council Chairman Erich Honecker to the Iranian president, noting the GDR's "consternation" and "deepest sympathy." On 5 July, the party paper NEUES DEUTSCHLAND claimed that the 290 passengers on the plane "had to die because the United States is...acting as a global policeman in the Gulf." **Poland**—A declaration from the Foreign Ministry on 5 July summarized by Warsaw PAP offered the downing of the Iranian Airbus as "confirmation" of Poland's frequently expressed concern over prolongation of the Iran-Iraq war and the presence of U.S. and NATO ships in the Gulf. According to the same agency, the Warsaw daily TRYBUNA LUDU, official organ of the ruling party, said the United States "could do much more" to end the war "using diplomatic channels." The Army daily ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI claimed that "the undeclared war escaped the control of those who unleashed it." **Romania**—Bucharest radio initiated Romanian coverage of the Airbus incident on 5 July with a 120-word "statement" expressing "deep regret at the very serious action that killed the 290 persons aboard." The official news agency AGERPRES carried a 370-word item on the same day, strongly condemning the episode under the heading: "In Connection With U.S. Naval Forces' Downing of Iranian Passenger Plane—An End Should Be Put to the Aggressive Actions in the Gulf; Fearless Flight of Civil Aircraft Should Be Ensured." In its 5 July "Romanian press review," the agency mentioned a telegram of condolences from President Nicolae Ceausescu to the Iranian president, adding: "The papers stress that public opinion in Romania demands that an end be put to the aggressive action in the Gulf and that the safety of

civil aircraft flight there be secured." **Yugoslavia**—Following a 3 July Belgrade radio report on the death of six Yugoslavs aboard Iran Air flight 655, the station aired a commentary by Milika Sundic, who stated that "the action by the crew of the U.S. cruiser cannot be justified in any way, because it is clear even to a layman that this was a major blunder and irresponsible behavior." A 4 July commentary from Zagreb predicted that "major consequences" would result from the affair, and that the American campaign against the USSR following the downing of KAL 007 "will now rebound on them." "The least" the United States can do, according to the commentary, "is apologize and pay compensation to the families." In a domestic news bulletin from TANJUG on 5 July, a spokesman for the Federal Foreign Affairs Secretariat was quoted as expressing "regret" at the incident, accompanied by "great sorrow and anger." The statement also appealed for "urgent international action" to end the war "on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 598."

In its 5 July edition, BORBA published factual reportage on the clash, citing IRNA, REUTER, and world reaction, including the response from Britain, France, and Italy. The paper's New York correspondent, Bogdan Decermic, reviewed statements by President Reagan, Admiral Crowe, and the State Department. In addition, the paper included a commentary by Slobodan Pavlovic, who declared that "the insane conflict in the Gulf has taken new, innocent lives," and that the incident "is a warning and appeal to those who started the war, those who do not want to end it, and those who think they are invited to regulate it and decide on it."

WEST EUROPE

Italy—Italian coverage of the incident focused primarily on the Italian frigate "Espero," dispatched to assist in recovering bodies from the downed aircraft. In the first monitored report at 1700 GMT on 3 July, Rome radio noted that there was "great concern" in Italy over the situation. The Italian prime minister expressed "profound condolences" in a report broadcast at 2200 GMT on the same day, while a 1555 GMT radio report on 4 July indicated that the Iranian aircraft had been at an abnormal altitude and "did not respond" to warning signals from the "USS Vincennes." The Italian president's message of condolences to Iranian President Khamene'i was reported by Rome radio at 2030 GMT on 4 July.

At 1730 GMT on 5 July, the radio reported on the Italian foreign minister's response to "urgent" parliamentary concerns about the incident, calling for UN intervention "to stop the conflict" and highlighting the "need for clarification of the Italian Navy's presence in the Gulf." Finally, the radio reported at 2030 GMT on 5 July that the prime minister had met with the opposition Socialist leader to discuss the situation in the Gulf. **France**—Paris radio, in a brief report broadcast at 2000 GMT on 3 July, cited the French Government's "consternation" over the downing and its request that "full light" be "shed as to the circumstances" of the incident. At 1300 GMT on 4 July the radio carried remarks made by the Iranian ambassador in Paris in which he questioned whether the downing was an accident. Khomeyni's declaration of war on the United States was also reported, in Paris radio's 0600 GMT cast on 5 July.

LE MONDE carried an editorial on 5 July crediting the United States for having rapidly admitted its responsibility for the Airbus downing, and noting that the circumstances of the incident were "very different" from those of the Soviet downing of the KAL airliner. The Paris daily added that Iranian "followers of terrorism" would certainly unleash their "fury" against the U.S. presence in the Gulf in response. It suggested that the Iraqis would use the incident to "surreptitiously fuel the conflagration," and implied that they were indirectly responsible for the "tragedy," in that their planes initiated the recent "insane" events by attacking two oil tankers bearing Iranian crude oil.

The conservative LE FIGARO praised President Reagan for having admitted responsibility and having immediately expressed U.S. regret for the "blunder" in the Persian Gulf. The fundamental question raised by the tragedy, according to the paper's 5 July editorial, is whether the United States' strategic choices have been wise. While LE FIGARO noted that the U.S. military "umbrella" has reassured the moderate Arab countries and deterred Iran, it wondered if it might not have been possible to secure the same result through diplomatic means. The paper concluded that the Americans became involved in the Gulf to maintain their credibility, and must now remain there for the same reason.

A commentary by Jacques Coubard appearing in the 4 July edition of the French Communist Party newspaper L'HUMANITE posited that there were no extenuating circumstances for the "U.S. policeman's crime." Coubard concluded by urging France to use its influence to ensure that negotiations are begun to end the Gulf conflict. **Spain**—Madrid radio carried lead items in its midday broadcasts on 3 and 4 July in which the Spanish Government's regret over the "tragic error" was highlighted. The radio linked the Gulf incident to the defusing of a bomb near the U.S. Embassy believed to have been planted by a "radical Islamic group," later reported to be the "International Anti-Imperialist Brigades."

The conservative Madrid newspaper ABC suggested that Washington will have to pay a high price in terms of its image for what was "one of the most serious episodes" in the Gulf war. The paper's 4 July editorial declared that the U.S. naval vessel's "mistaking" of the Airbus for an enemy strike bomber was "unacceptable." It noted, however, that, in contrast to the 1982 KAL case, "we do, in fact, seem to be dealing with an error rather than a deliberate act." **Scandinavia**—Coverage afforded the Gulf incident was sparse overall. Stockholm radio reported at 1600 GMT on 4 July on the heightened

security measures imposed at U.S. airlines and the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm in "fear of Iranian retaliation" for the downing, while Helsinki radio noted at 0830 GMT on 5 July that the Finnish Government had conveyed to the Iranian Government the fact that it "deeply deplores" the incident. Helsinki radio also noted that the Finnish Airline Pilots Association saw the Airbus downing as "an act of terrorism." **Netherlands**—Describing movements in the Persian Gulf as "high noon in the Strait of Hormuz," Amsterdam's DE VOLKSKRANT suggested that Washington is turning things upside down when it upbraids Iran for allowing civil aircraft to fly in a "war zone." Primary responsibility for the incident, the paper argues in a 5 July editorial, lies with the commander of the "USS Vincennes," and not with Iran Air. DE VOLKSKRANT concludes that it is justifiable to state that the United States has seriously overestimated its ability to operate in the Gulf with the necessary level of selectivity. **United Kingdom**—The DAILY TELEGRAPH termed the destruction of the Iranian airliner an "appalling mistake," which may have profound long-term consequences on U.S. Middle East policy and on Iran's relations with the West. In its 4 July editorial, the paper went on to state that the incident should not blind the international public to the success such naval patrols have had in maintaining an open international waterway through which much of the oil supplies for both Japan and the West pass, and noted that Iran cannot be viewed as an innocent party.

Monitored London PRESS ASSOCIATION coverage, beginning with a report at 1845 GMT on 3 July, focused on Britain's concern that there may be an "anti-West backlash" from the incident. Prime Minister Thatcher's expression of "profound regret" was reported, together with comment by the British opposition suggesting that an effort by Britain to distance itself from the United States in the wake of the incident would improve its chances "of bringing back our hostages." A statement by Iran's ambassador declaring that the U.S. personnel responsible should "face a court martial" was reported at 1147 GMT on 4 July. **Austria**—All Austrian dailies carried detailed reports on the Airbus downing in their 4-6 July editions.

Vienna NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG in German published a commentary on 4 July stating that while "the tragedy in the Gulf" was not the result of "a barbaric lust to kill," it highlights how easily human error can trigger a catastrophe. On 6 July the paper commented that the incident is a "bloody symbol of the many U.S. failures in this region in the past 10 years."

Vienna DIE PRESSE in German on 5 July carried a commentary comparing the incident to the 1983 Soviet downing of a Korean airliner, and concluding that "nothing can justify the U.S. action."

A report published by Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German on 5 July cited the reactions of Austrian Chancellor Vranitzky, Foreign Minister Mock, and President Waldheim. Waldheim was quoted as viewing the development to be "extremely hazardous," inasmuch as there is the danger of "retaliation." Mock expressed the hope that "this tragic sacrifice" will lead "those with political responsibility to be more amenable to talks," while Vranitzky suggested that the deaths of the Airbus passengers demonstrate "how senseless and dangerous the Gulf war is."

The communist newspaper Vienna VOLKSSTIMME in German severely condemned the United States in a 5 July report, recalling the downing of the KAL flight by the USSR and suggesting that on both occasions "the United States wanted to demonstrate its policy of strength," the result both times being the "unscrupulous" sacrifice of "the lives of many civilians." **FRG**—Bonn DIE WELT in German on 4 July carries a commentary by Fritz Wirth declaring that "no one can seriously accuse the United States of having intentionally caused this disaster. Its behavior in the Gulf war thus far excludes this possibility." Wirth went on to note that the United States "has exclusively played the role of a protective power to date, defending uninvolved and defenseless civilians against Iran's aggression." A second commentary by Fritz Wirth entitled "Terrible Consequences," published in Bonn DIE WELT on 5 July, notes that "the political tragedy of this catastrophe lies in the fact that political change is in the offing in Iran, and initial signals of detente have begun to appear between Washington and Tehran." The commentary adds that "it has become a bitter irony of history that U.S. presidents leave office under the stigma of an Iran crisis." Wirth also authored a 6 July commentary entitled "Reagan Insists on Presence in Gulf" in which he said that "the White House is clearly trying to play down the political relevance of the catastrophe." He also noted that the Iranian leaders "do not seem to be in agreement as to their reactions," contrasting Khomeyni's call for "all-out war" with Rafsanjani's warning of "precipitous reactions."

Frankurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German on 4 July published a commentary entitled "Death In the Gulf," noting that "only when death makes the headlines" do we realize that "the killing in the Gulf is endless." On 5 July the paper carried a front-page commentary by Karl-Alfred Odin entitled "The Catastrophe," in which the Iranian Airbus incident is contrasted with the 1983 Soviet downing of a Korean airliner. The author wrote that "the Iranian Airbus approached a warship that did not have enough time to thoroughly identify it, at low altitude and at high speed from a relatively close distance. In contrast, Soviet interceptors flew beside the Korean plane for a long time and identified it before they shot it down, over a region where no fighting was taking place." The commentator went on to say that "while it is not now possible to clearly place responsibility for the downing of the Airbus, it has been demonstrated to the Americans more clearly than ever before just how thoroughy their policy toward Iran invites disaster."

An article by Carlos Widmann appeared in the 5 July edition of Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, entitled "The Never-Ending Embarrassing Silence," which says that "apart from the regret expressed by President Reagan on Monday night, the U.S. nation did not permit itself to show any internationally noticeable reaction over its festive weekend," in contrast to the "outrageous outburst" that followed the destruction of the Korean airliner. The same paper published a commentary by Dieter Schroeder criticizing the United States for not having taken the necessary precautions to prevent such an incident and concluding that "the United States has jeopardized its peace mission in the Gulf and has contributed to the escalation and extension of the war."

West German reaction monitored from Hamburg DPA included the "great shock" expressed by Foreign Minister Genscher in condolences sent to Iran's foreign minister and the "deep consternation" felt by the federal government. DPA also carried a statement by the Iranian ambassador in Bonn indicating that the United States "consciously" intended to kill the passengers in order to "have an excuse for an attack on Iran." **Greece**—On 4 July, Athens radio reported a statement by a Greek Government spokesman in which he said that the "tragic event" was the "responsibility of the United States," as it has prolonged the tension in the Gulf. The ATHENS NEWS newspaper cited the Iranian ambassador to Greece as saying that the attack "will not go unanswered," though Iran does not want to "extend the Persian Gulf war to neighbouring countries and regions." While Greek papers and Athens radio carried extensive reports on the incident on 4 and 5 July, including ample coverage of U.S. officials' statements and explanations, the only monitored Greek comment on the incident came in a 6 July column published by the communist newspaper RIZOSPASTIS, describing the downing of the plane by the "international terrorist" as "mass murder" and urging the PASOK government to proceed with the removal of U.S. bases from Greece on the grounds that a similar "mistake" could happen anywhere where U.S. forces are present. **Cyprus**—Four Cyprus papers on 5 and 6 July criticized the U.S. downing of the Iranian airliner with varying degrees of severity. The communist paper KHARAVYI called the action "a political crime," while I SIMERINI said that "no excuse can be considered sufficient." O FILELEVTHEROS suggested that the precedent established with the USSR's downing of a Korean airliner cannot remove "the weight of responsibility" for the new incident. ELEVTHEROTIPIA criticized President Vasiliou for attending the U.S. Embassy Independence Day reception "on the day of the great slaughter." While Nicosia radio carried extensive reports on the incident, no reaction or comment was monitored. **Turkey**—The Istanbul newspaper CUMHURIYET commented on 5 July that the downing of the airliner by U.S. forces reveals that "high technology offers no reassurance" and suggested that the superpowers "seem to be behaving in an unbelievably indifferent way." Four other Istanbul papers—MILLIYET, TERCUMAN, HURRIYET, and GUNAYDIN—carried commentaries sounding similar notes, expressing the opinion that great danger results when the superpowers can make mistakes with such disastrous consequences, and declaring that the Gulf war must be brought to an end. Ankara radio reported extensively on the airbus downing, and carried the only monitored official Turkish reaction to the incident, a Foreign Ministry statement broadcast at 1000 GMT on 4 July expressing "deep regret" over the event and urging a speedy and peaceful solution to the Gulf war, arrived at "among the Gulf countries themselves, without any outside interference." The Turkish Foreign Ministry also called on concerned parties "to act calmly and to refrain from provocative acts that might exacerbate the situation." The radio also carried comments by the two opposition parties, the CWP and the SDPP. The former strongly denounced the attack and stressed that such attacks on civilian targets are unacceptable, while the SDPP expressed "deep regret" and urged that "the war that produced this inhuman attack and similar attacks must be stopped."

CHINA

China's official reaction to the American downing of an Iranian commercial airliner on 3 July came in a statement the next day by the Foreign Ministry spokesman, transmitted by XINHUA. The spokesman said the Chinese were "shocked" to learn of the incident, and noted that they "condemn" the action. He also reaffirmed the Chinese Government's opposition to "big power military involvement" in the Gulf, and voiced hope for a peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq war at the earliest possible date.

XINHUA's English-language service has carried nearly 80 reports on the incident, including a dispatch from a XINHUA correspondent who visited the scene. The agency's Chinese service has carried far fewer items, roughly a dozen, the bulk of which have cited American and Iranian declarations. Beijing radio's coverage has followed a similar pattern—fewer pieces on the event, with most quoting U.S. and Iranian statements.

Beijing RENMIN RIBAO, the country's leading paper, published a comment in its 5 July edition under the pen name Ming He. The article voiced "shock" at the shooting and reviewed the American and Iranian versions of the incident. While the article noted that a credible account "has yet to be verified," it expressed disbelief that a U.S. warship could mistake an Airbus for a jet fighter. RENMIN RIBAO added that the American military presence in the Gulf can only make the situation there "more complicated," and pointed out that it also infringes on navigation in the region. The piece concluded by calling on both Iran and Iraq to cease hostilities.

EAST ASIA

Japan—The government's official reaction to the loss of Iran Air flight 655 came in a 4 July KYODO report on a news conference by Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi. Obchi told journalists that the government "deeply regrets" the loss of life, and hopes the incident will not lead to increased tension in the Gulf. He also called for an "early and peaceful" settlement of the Iran-Iraq war.

Prime Minister Takeshita, currently on a visit to Australia, offered condolences to the victims and said he hoped there would be no "recurrence" of such a tragedy. He also expressed hope that the "tragic incident" would not lead to an escalation of tension in the Gulf, and came out in favor of an "early, peaceful settlement" of the Iran-Iraq war.

The Japan Socialist Party, a small opposition group, denounced the United States for its action against the plane, which it termed an "unpardonable act." It also urged the United States to halt its "military intervention" in the Iran-Iraq war immediately, apologize for the incident, and compensate the victims' families.

The transport minister, Shintaro Ishihara, mentioned the clash in a meeting with the press following a 5 July cabinet meeting, where he was quoted as saying: "Though the United States has given various explanations, it is a lamentable incident that should not have happened"; "the government as a whole should take measures to guarantee the security of civil aircraft."

In its newscasts on 4 and 5 June, the Tokyo NHK General Television Network broadcast a large number of reports on the episode, including factual material on the event, Japanese reaction to it, its effect on the yen's rate of exchange, Japan Airlines' plan to modify its route over the site of the shooting, and the Transport Ministry's intention to have Japanese tankers continue their convoys through the Strait of Hormuz. **North Korea**—The DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman, in a statement aired by Pyongyang Domestic Service on 5 July, condemned the "brigandish act of air terrorism" by the "USS Vincennes" in shooting down the Iranian Airbus. According to the statement, the incident "reveals to the world once again that the U.S. imperialists—who fabricated the intrigue of the missing South Korean passenger plane and raved about so-called terrorism and sanctions—are the ringleaders of international terrorism." The Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement concluded that the United States "should stop aggravating tension in the Persian Gulf and immediately withdraw its aggressive armed forces from around the world." Pyongyang KCNA on 5 July reported that the downing by the "U.S. imperialists" was an "intentional" and "malicious act of retaliation for the downing of a U.S. helicopter in their encounter with Iranian naval boats." The report concluded by warning of "intensified military intervention and terrorism" by the United States. **South Korea**—The first official reaction of the South Korean Government to the downing of the Iranian Airbus was reflected in a Foreign Ministry statement carried by Seoul YONHAP on 5 July which instructed embassies in the Middle East to "strengthen measures for the safety of Koreans there in preparation for a possible escalation of the conflict in the region." On the same day, YONHAP transmitted a report on a statement issued by a Foreign Ministry spokesman in connection with the incident which expressed "profound regret" and "deep condolences."

THE KOREA HERALD, in an editorial published on 6 July, said that the "tragic destruction" "underscores the urgent need to find peaceful solution before more lives are lost." Recounting the downing of Korean Air Lines flight 007 in 1983, the paper urged "all nations to join efforts to avoid a repetition of Sunday's tragic mishap, whatever its truth, and to assure a ruling that can bring peace and stability in that region of the world." In a more critical editorial published by THE KOREA TIMES on the same day, a parallel was drawn between the Iranian Airbus downing and the downing of Korean Air Lines flight 007 on 1 September 1983. The editorial said that "now the United States has ironically been put into the Soviets' position" and that it "cannot escape worldwide censure over the undeniable fact that it attacked a passenger plane and killed nearly 300 people." It concluded by urging "restraint" on the part of Iran and "due remedial steps" to be taken by the United States. The two Seoul television stations, Seoul Television Service and Seoul MBC Television Network, carried extensive though generally neutral coverage of the incident. **Philippines**—Acting Foreign Secretary Jose D. Ingles, in a statement reported in the 6 July edition of the independent Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, extended his government's sympathy to the families of the passengers of Iran Air flight 655, and noted its regret at the loss of "innocent lives." The statement also reiterated an appeal for a peaceful solution to the 8-year war between Iran and Iraq, and expressed hope that all parties concerned "will take effective steps to prevent a repetition of this deplorable incident." The INQUIRER explained that Ingles' statement was in response to an appeal from the Iranian charge d'affaires, who requested condemnation of what he described as an act of "terrorism." In addition, the report quoted President Corazon Aquino, when asked if she condemned the attack, as saying: "I'm still waiting for the results of the investigation...." On 5 July, the same paper published an editorial under the headline "Terrorism," comparing the 3 July incident to the 1983 Soviet downing of a KAL airliner. The editorial called Iran "a Third World nation that asserts its sovereignty and bravely confronts even the mightiest powers in defense of what it regards as its national interest." The paper saw the incident as evidence that "the Iranians and other Third World peoples do not have a monopoly on terrorism. Americans, too, are just as capable of it."

In a 5 June editorial entitled "Hostages of U.S. Foreign Policy," THE MANILA CHRONICLE portrayed the incident as proof that "Americans can be just as murderous as the Soviets." The paper called the event a

demonstration of the fact that "innocent people are very much at the mercy of chance when a superpower chooses to flex its muscle." The editorial also questioned the role of the Philippines in "this dubious political-economic-military effort." **Australia**—Prime Minister Bob Hawke "'very deeply' regretted the disaster, which was a case of mistaken identity during heavy fighting between Iranian and U.S. gunships", in remarks carried by Hong Kong AFP on 4 July. The same item quoted Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Hayden as declaring that the "tragedy underscored the need for a lasting peace between Iran and Iraq." **Indonesia**—The Indonesian Government "regrets" the downing of an Iranian Airbus by U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, according to a Foreign Ministry statement transmitted on 6 July by the Jakarta press agency ANTARA. The ministry said the tragedy reflected the "increasing importance of efforts to stop the Iran-Iraq war" and noted that "the increasing number of foreign forces entering the Gulf region has increased the risk of involvement in the war."

A 6 July Jakarta radio commentary said the "tragic incident" could be viewed as a factor to persuade those involved in the Gulf conflict to settle their dispute. The station pointed out that the "horrible human tragedy would not have occurred had the United States not sent its warships to the Gulf." However, the radio added that the United States "would not have dispatched its forces to the Gulf had Iran heeded the world's call for an end to its war with Iraq."

In a 5 July statement to ANTARA, Imron Rosyadi, chairman of a parliamentary commission on defense and security, foreign affairs, and information, pointed out that "it is more than proper if the whole world criticizes and even condemns the shooting down of the Iranian jetliner." Roysadi termed the American operation a "shameful act" that "violated human norms." As for President Reagan's defense of the attack as legitimate self-defense, he declared that such an argument "does not make sense." "It is impossible," he continued, "to understand how a U.S. warship with the most modern and sophisticated equipment on board could possibly make a mistake." **Malaysia**—In a strongly worded declaration, reported by Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA on 5 July, the Foreign Ministry announced that the country "deplored" the destruction of the Iranian airliner. The ministry said "it is difficult to believe or accept U.S. claims that its forces could have committed the grave error of mistaking a large civilian aircraft for a military one." The government offered its condolences and "profound sympathy" over "the unmitigated disaster," which caused "consternation and deep anguish." **Thailand**—Commenting on the unofficial discussion of the incident by ASEAN foreign ministers on 4 July, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila expressed his "deep regret," but "reserved further comment until more details are known," according to the 5 July edition of the Bangkok paper THE NATION. In an editorial in the same issue, under the headline "The U.S. Does What It Can; Iran Suffers What It Must," THE NATION said it is "indeed a human tragedy that U.S. servicemen and officers on "The Vincennes" couldn't tell an Airbus" from a "U.S.-built F-14 Tomcat." The editorial asserted that the "tendency of the U.S. to find solace in comparing this attack with the Soviet downing of the Korean Boeing 747 is, at best, deplorable. Having warned the Iranian Airbus seven times before blowing it off the skies didn't make the act less appalling."

In another editorial on 5 July, the BANGKOK POST urged the United States to "make a dramatic gesture" to defuse the crisis and restore confidence in American policies. In its commentary, entitled "Aftermath of a Terrible Tragedy," the paper mourned the loss suffered by the Iranian people. While the POST said there was no reason to doubt America's claim that the action was accidental, "the firing of a missile at the civilian airliner on a scheduled regular flight must nevertheless be deplored."

Among other press comment, the Thai-language daily MATICHON published an editorial on 5 July declaring that the "United States has no right to justify the incident as 'a proper defensive action' as President Reagan claimed. Such American rights do not cover the attack against a civilian airliner, which represents no threat to the life and property of the United States." The editorial referred to U.S. policy in the Gulf as "mistaken," for it tends to promote violence. As such, the paper recommended that the United States "use this extensive lesson to realize the time has come to adjust its policy in the Persian Gulf." **Vietnam**—On 5 July, Hanoi Domestic Service aired a report that characterized the downing of the Iranian Airbus as "a criminal action by the United States," which "has triggered indignation among the Iranian people and strong protests by world public opinion." The radio then reviewed Iranian Prime Minister Musavi's comments on the episode and a TASS report that called on the U.S. "to withdraw its fleets from the region." No official statements have been monitored from Vietnamese media. **Laos**—Citing TASS, Vientiane Domestic Service presented a report on 6 July covering the destruction of the Iranian passenger plane. On the same day, the station broadcast an "article" on the Iran-Iraq war, describing the loss of the Iran Air jet as further proof that the USSR's "correct and reasonable proposal" to end the Gulf conflict should be implemented.

LATIN AMERICA

Cuba—The Cuban Foreign Ministry condemned the downing of the Iranian Airbus, according to a report carried by Havana International Service on 5 July. The report noted that the ministry rejected the U.S. version of the "massacre," as the equipment aboard the "Vincennes" "can clearly distinguish between military and civilian aircraft." The Cuban Foreign Ministry concluded that the "growing presence" of U.S. forces in the Gulf "represents a danger to international peace and security." A commentary aired by the same station the

previous evening follows a similar outline but makes stronger charges. The commentary describes the "massacre" as a "barbaric act" and suggests that one could be led to believe that "this U.S. attack" was "intentional." It is impossible, the commentary adds, to draw a parallel between this incident and the downing of a South Korean airliner several years ago, for the Iranian plane was in a corridor "well marked on international air traffic maps." The commentary closed by pointing out that with only a few months left in his administration, "Reagan has another crime on his hands." **Nicaragua**—The Nicaraguan Government took advantage of a message from President Daniel Ortega "to the U.S. people" on the occasion of Independence Day to include, in the final paragraph, a comment describing the downing of the Iranian aircraft as "a true act of genocide," which demonstrates U.S. "contempt for international law" and "betrays the ideals of those who fought and died for American independence." The message was aired by Managua radio on 4 July. **Panama**—In an official communique reported by Panama City Domestic Service on 4 July and later carried in full by the government newspaper CRITICA, the Panamanian Government attributed recent events in the Persian Gulf to America's "unbridled desire for domination." The communique charges that U.S. claims of a "mistake or error" are "unacceptable excuses." **Argentina**—A communique released by the Press Directorate at Government House on 3 July and carried by Buenos Aires DYN expressed "deep consternation" over the loss of the Iranian Airbus. The declaration added that the Argentine Government "expects the circumstances and the responsibility of those who caused it to be clarified." The communique also reiterated Argentina's belief that a "quick and final solution" must be found for the conflict. **Brazil**—In a 4 July communique broadcast by Brasilia radio, the Foreign Ministry expressed "deep sorrow" at the loss of "many innocent lives" in the downing of Iran Air flight 655. The statement noted that international civil aviation "must not be threatened by this type of event," and underlined the need for "maximum restraint" by all parties in the Persian Gulf. On 5 July, Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre reported that when President Sarney, who is currently visiting the PRC, learned of the incident, "he deplored it" as an "accident of war." According to Sodre, Sarney added that "we must all work to eliminate wars from the earth, because they are the cause of deplorable disasters such as this." **Uruguay**—In a 5 July communique reported by Montevideo Radio El Espectador, the Foreign Ministry voiced its "consternation" over the downing of an Iranian Airbus by U.S. forces. The ministry also expressed hope that the regional conflict could be resolved in compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 598. In its own resolution on the incident, the Uruguayan Senate, expressing its "deepest consternation" over the action and calling for "a thorough investigation for the total clarification of the tragedy and the determination of responsibility," added its "total and full solidarity with the Iranian people."

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Ghana—In a strongly worded statement broadcast by Accra radio on 4 July, the Ghanaian Government described the American action in the Gulf as "not only unforgivable and violent, but also as a deliberate provocation against Iran that could lead to an escalation of the Gulf war." The declaration called for "an immediate investigation, under the auspices of the United Nations, into the circumstances of the shooting down of the airliner."

Press and radio commentary has echoed the harsh tone set by the government statement. In a 5 July editorial cited by Accra Domestic Service, the GHANAIAN TIMES suggested that the American operation may have been a "deliberate" attempt "to provoke Iran into direct confrontation" as part of a "U.S. plan to do something dramatic in order to provide a world outcry for an end to the war." On the same day, Accra radio condemned the "halfhearted, even downright callous reaction of Western allies" to the incident, highlighting the UK and Italy in particular. A similar station commentary on 6 July explained that "contrary to President Reagan's opinion, the matter is not closed, and one hopes that when the results of the investigations are known, appropriate sanctions will be applied." **Nigeria**—The Nigerian Government summoned the U.S. ambassador on 5 July to express its "shock" over the incident, and said that "more care should have been taken by the U.S. naval warship." At the same time, the government called on Iran and the families of the victims to "exercise restraint in the face of this tragedy."

In general, the press has been far more critical of the United States. In a 5 July commentary, the NEW NIGERIAN portrayed the killing of 300 Iranian civilians as "an irresponsible and vicious aggression by the desperate power," and likened the act to the "series of crimes being committed by the Americans in the Middle East in the past 10 years." On 6 July, the DAILY TIMES wrote that President Reagan was "fully aware of the consequences" of sending warships to the Gulf, while THE SKETCH called the American claim that the Iranian airliner had been mistaken for an F-14 a "flimsy" excuse. **South Africa**—In remarks reported by Johannesburg radio on 5 July, President P.W. Botha said it was "strange" that while Washington could offer "excuses" for shooting down a civilian airliner, South Africa was branded a "terrorist state" by leading American groups for protecting its "own interests" against "international terrorism."

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LD0707132488 [Editorial Report]

Iran

Further Comment on Airbus—Speaking at the 7 July funeral of passengers on the downed Airbus, President 'Ali Khamene'i warned that Iran has "the right of revenge in whatever form and wherever we deem it," IRNA reported. Tehran radio had earlier cited Khamene'i's remark that the issue is "not finished" as this is "only the start of the affair." Iran has been a target of "aggression" and is entitled to give an "appropriate response," he added.

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi linked the downing of the airliner with "evidence of a joint plot" hatched against Iran by the United States and Iraq, IRNA noted.

On a more conciliatory note, Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Larijani told Vienna's KURIER that "retaliation does not make any sense to me as a politician," and he indicated it would be better for Iran's response to be on the diplomatic level. On Iran's call for a UN Security Council resolution condemning the U.S. action, Larijani warned that a U.S. veto of the resolution would damage the United Nations' reputation and credibility, IRNA reported.

In another development, KUNA noted that Kuwait has received an Iranian message expressing gratitude for Kuwait's declaration of condolences over the downing of the airbus.

In the Gulf, Iranian experts began using electronic equipment in their search for the downed airliner's black box, Tehran radio reported. IRNA disclosed that Iran Air has resumed flights to Dubayy.

Relations With UK—The finalization of the British-Iranian agreement on compensation for damage to each other's embassies is seen as part of a "general thawing of relations," IRNA reported. However, the agency said that calls in Britain for better relations with Iran received a "setback" when Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher went "out of her way" to support the U.S. "attempted cover-up" over the airbus downing. A PRESS ASSOCIATION report on the compensation agreement noted that Britain will pay Iran 1.8 million pounds to fund the reconstruction of its London embassy, while Iran will pay around half this amount for repair work on British diplomatic property in Tehran.

Iran-Iraq War

Following Iraq's announced air strikes on Iranian oil installations, IRNA reported that eight villagers were killed by Iraqi raids in Khuzestan. The agency also stated that Iranian planes bombed targets inside Iraq.

In an interview with Tehran radio, an IRGC commander warned that the war has reached a "sensitive" stage because of recent Iraqi successes, and he stressed the need to send more forces to the fronts. He also called for an end to "hesitation" about the war and for the establishment of a "war cabinet."

Speaking about the war in an address cited by INA, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn claimed that Iran has been defeated because it has lost its "intellectual base." He also criticized the message issued by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in the wake of "the regrettable Iranian passenger plane incident."

Lebanon

Threat to Hostage—The Revolutionary Justice Organization threatened to use the "hostages card" as part of a "comprehensive retaliation" for the downing of the Iran Air Airbus, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The threat was contained in a statement to a Beirut news agency, accompanied by a photograph of U.S. hostage Edward Tracy.

Meanwhile, Cairo radio announced that the Islamic Jihad has deferred a threat to execute Terry Anderson at the request of Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The radio gave no details of the sources of this information. Kidnappers of U.S. hostages have also been warned by Syria against carrying out reprisals for the downing of the Airbus, according to a UAE press report cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio.

Burj al-Barajinah—A source from Fatah-the Uprising (Abu Musa's group) announced 7 July that the situation is now "nearly decided" in his side's favor, Beirut radio reported, adding that contacts are underway to persuade Yasir 'Arafat's supporters in the camp to surrender. Nevertheless, Voice of Lebanon radio said that fighting was continuing in the camp 7 July following a counter-attack by pro-'Arafat forces the previous afternoon.

Outside Lebanon, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad disclosed that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has promised to make efforts to end the fighting in the refugee camps, KUNA reported. Shaykh Sabah was speaking at the end of his recent Arab tour which included talks in Damascus. Beirut radio subsequently noted the arrival in Beirut of Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon.

Palestinian Call No 21

Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio and the clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio both broadcast "Call No 21" which outlines a program for further action against the Israeli occupation for the period 7-18 July. The

version broadcast from Sanaa was issued by the "Unified National Leadership of the Uprising" and it included sharp criticism of the "renegade" Abu Musa group's actions in Beirut.

In contrast, the statement carried by Al-Quds was issued by the "Unified Popular Committees in Palestine" and it contained no reference to the Palestinian infighting in Lebanon. The Al-Quds version likewise did not include a favorable reference to "Jewish peace forces that support our people's national rights" contained in the Sanaa broadcast. Both statements urged Palestinians to be wary of attempts by "the occupation authorities and their agents" to incite "sectarian differences."

Al-Quds radio subsequently broadcast an open letter criticizing the Fatah mainstream version and also referring to a third "Call No 21" which it attributed to the Mosad, the Israeli intelligence service. Jerusalem radio confirmed that several different versions of Call No 21 have been circulated as leaflets in the territories, noting that Arab sources viewed one of these as "phony" and "not written by Arabs."

Afghanistan

A bomb exploded in a truck near a Kabul market 6 July, killing 6 people and wounding 13, Kabul radio announced. The blast destroyed several shops and damaged a mosque and a holy shrine. The radio blamed "criminal extremists" for this "unforgivable crime." In another development, "the extremist opposition" fired 12 missiles at residential areas of the capital, killing 7 people and wounding 19, the radio reported.

On the diplomatic level, Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil briefed visiting UN envoy Diego Cordovez on Pakistani "violations" of the Geneva Accords, the radio noted. Cordovez told Wakil that Pakistan has promised to observe the accords and to make efforts to implement them.

Pakistan

Five Palestinians convicted of involvement in the September 1986 hijacking of a plane at Karachi Airport were sentenced to death by a special court in Rawalpindi, Islamabad radio reported. The accused will have the right to appeal against the verdict and sentence.

Eleven people were killed and several injured when a Pakistan Air Force plane crashed in an area of Karachi, Islamabad radio disclosed. AFP said the aircraft was a Mirage jet.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Amman Reportedly Renews Syrian-Iraqi Mediation

JN0607160388 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 5 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] Beirut, AL-ITTIHAD—A highly placed Lebanese political source, who is close to Damascus, has told AL-ITTIHAD that the Jordanian Government is conducting intensive efforts behind the scenes with Damascus and Baghdad. These efforts are being made to convene a meeting between the foreign ministers of both countries and renew discussions to improve the broken relations between Syria and Iraq.

The source revealed that the message from King Husayn to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, which was delivered the day before yesterday by Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, included a great deal about this subject.

'Arab Liberation' Groups on Abu Sharif Document

JN0607213488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Jul 88

["Text" of statement issued by "representatives of Arab liberation movements" on 6 July; place not given]

[Text] At a time when the mammoth popular uprising was escalating in occupied Palestine against the Zionist entity and its repressive measures, and when the extraordinary Arab summit was being held in Algeria to champion the valiant resistance of the Palestinian people, Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, distributed, with 'Arafat's authorization, a very important document.

In this document, 'Arafat and his entourage expressed their full readiness to recognize the Zionist entity and to relinquish the historical rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation to the Palestinian territory.

The document contains serious ideas with reference to the Jewish people and the neighboring peoples as well as traitorous stands that encroach on the political constants in the continuing conflict in the region. These traitorous positions completely ignore that this entity is a colonialist base. It not only aims to uproot the Palestinian people from their land but also to impose hegemony over the rest of the Arab region. The entity intends to do so in its capacity as a weapon used by world imperialism to dictate its terms on the entire Arab nation and all peoples of the region.

The document expresses clearly that this clique does not believe in the capabilities and potentials of the militant Palestinian people and the rest of the Arab nation that rallies around the uprising. All forms of support for, and solidarity with, the uprising are still being raised in all Arab states.

This clique attaches [hope] to the White House and the polices of other imperialist countries to impose solutions on the Zionist entity.

The Arab liberation movements, the signatories to this statement, denounce and condemn the Bassam-'Arafat document in whole and in part. The movements believe that the document is the low-point of degeneration and treason to the national and pan-Arab interests of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation; that it follows liquidatory American plans; and is a stab in the back to the sacrifices made by the Palestinian uprising and the masses of the Arab nation in their confrontation with the imperialist-Zionist onslaught from the beginning of this century until now.

On this occasion we would like to reiterate that the conflict with the Zionist entity is about existence, not borders. The Palestinian people and the masses of the Arab nation are not responsible for the hideous massacres perpetrated by Nazism and fascist and imperialist regimes in Europe. These regimes alone are responsible for these massacres as well as for the great pains suffered by the struggling people in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

It is in this light that we view the allegations of the Jewish people's right to Palestinian territory and other racist and colonialist proposals. We do not believe that the conflict in this region will end without liberating all Palestinian soil and establishing a democratic Palestinian state in which all citizens will enjoy their equal rights.

The Arab liberation movements, the signatories to this statement, call on all militant Palestinian leaders to explain their position on this traitorous document and to confront this destructive plan against not only the valiant Palestinian uprising but also the constants of the national and pan-Arab struggle.

The Palestinian people, who are challenging the Zionist occupation, will not remain silent on these agent voices which appear every now and then. We are confident that this people and all regional peoples will triumph over the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary enemy.

[Signed] The Popular March Committees in Jordan, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party—the Jordan Regional Command, the Jordanian Popular Movement, the Popular Front in Bahrain, the Nasirite Organization, the 13 July Front for the Yemeni Popular Forces, the Arab Popular Liberation Movement, the Lebanese Communist Party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Egypt Organizations, the Popular Democratic Party in Lebanon, the Iraqi Democrats Union, the Workers Union in Lebanon, the Islamic Bloc in Iraq, the Democratic Unionist Gathering in Iraq, the Jordanian Revolutionary People's Party, the Arab Socialist Labor in Iraq, the Arab Socialist Labor in

the Arabian Peninsula, the Arab Socialist Labor in Lebanon, the Socialist Party in Iraq, the Unionist Nasirite Organization, and the 12 July Front for the Yemeni Popular Forces.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Quds Radio on U.S. Downing of Iranian Plane

JN0507214188 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Unattributed talk: "The Terrorism of the State and the State of Terrorism"]

[Text] When it comes to the United States and its violations of the simplest humanitarian principles in the world, no one is allowed to utter a word. When the United States directs the fire of its war machinery against the innocent, starting with Latin American, Africa, and Palestine, and not ending with the Gulf and Iran, this, from the one-sided opinion of the United States, is done in an effort to combat the terrorists not abiding by peaceful American law. But when nations fight for their freedom and rebel against injustice and oppression, this is terrorism itself which must be confronted by all means.

This is how the United States understands things, or this is how it justifies its aggression and violence on the nations of the world and its recurrent aggressions on the freedom of the innocent, the sovereignty of states, and the logic of international law. The United States, therefore, reflects a special logic which characterizes state terror in its confrontation of nations' will for liberation and freedom.

This time the manifestation of arrogant U.S. terrorism was as clear as previous practices. The U.S. war arsenal, stationed in the Gulf since tension intensifed in the region, intercepted the day before yesterday an Iranian charter plane, an airbus, and destroyed it with 2 surface-to-air missiles, which resulted in the death of all the passengers on the plane, 290 innocent civilians.

All this happened in the usual calm and professional U.S. murder style without even the simplest justiciation for such a criminal act. The Iranian plane is a civilian passenger plane and is easy to distinguish from fighter planes. There is no doubt that it was on the course of accepted international navigation heading to Qatar [as heard] from Tehran.

The question is: Why down the Iranian plane? Does the fact it was heading peacefully and securely on its internationally accepted navigational route toward its commercial destination violate the Pentagon's security and expose the White House to danger? The answer as we see it is not one word. We can say that the United States, which claims to be fighting terrorism, is the master of state terrorism spanning a long history of crimes committed against nations and sovereign states.

The answer begins in April 1986 when the Pentagon intelligence and strike forces tried to stop the spread of the Iranian revolution by infiltrating into the Tabas Desert where the U.S. planes which got there were destroyed as a clear sign of U.S. terrorism. The answer also includes the great U.S. terrorist incident and the ugly crime committed against the Libyan Jamahiriyah as a dangerous precedent, when the Pentagon forces and planes tried to hit leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi personally and killed many innocents and destroyed all they could in the process through using their violent machinery. And before that, the United States downed the Libyan passenger plane in 1975 in the Sinai Desert by using Zionist-U.S. fighter plane missiles.

It is U.S. terrorism which is now in Latin America hitting the revolution in Nicaragua and sheltering those rebelling against the sovereignity of the Nicaraguan state. After that it will not stop at the limits of killing, destruction, and homelessness witnessed and still being witnessed by Palestine.

Every part of the world witnesses one or more fact of U.S. terrorism which stops at nothing. It is enough to mention here the alliance and comprehensive relationship between the Zionist entity and the United States of America in suppressing our people's uprising in Palestine and using modern lethal U.S. weapons against our people. All these are stamped proof of the special American logic in dealing with nations' issues and freedom. It is also proof of the state terrorism and that those who claim to defend freedom in the U.S. formulation are practicing terrorism.

PFLP-GC Issues Statement on Beirut Camps War

JN0507201788 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Statement issued by the PFLP-GC's Political Bureau "in light of the incidents currently going on in the Lebanese arena and the uprising being staged in the occupied territories"; date, place not given]

[Text] We believe that the incidents being witnessed in the Lebanese arena, namely, the inter-Palestinian infighting which is taking place in the Beirut camps, the enemy's oppressive practices against our people's uprising, and the U.S.-Zionist threats being voiced against Syria are inter-related issues that consitute part of an American-Zionist conspiracy targeting Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and our people's uprising. We are also of the opinion that the aforementioned factors seek to strike at and thwart the national solution in Lebanon.

All these developments require that the following realities be examined so we can explore their significance and draw up the bases required for tackling them:

Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Damascus in the wake of the martyrdom of Khalil al-Wazir gave rise to great hopes harbored by our people about the rectification of the

Palestinian-Syrian relationship and the laying down of foundations of militant relations that assert the centrality of this relationship, particularly within the framework of the national Arab regimes which are allies of our struggle and of our people's rights.

The visit also gave rise to the hope that a militant Palestinian national unity would be realized on the basis of an organizational and political basis that bypasses the negative aspects of the past and brings about a PLO return to its anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist, and anti-reactionary position. Hopes were also harbored that this would help solidify Arab steadfatness.

The moves effected and the stands taken following the visit have confirmed the lack of seriousness on the part of Yasir 'Arafat and the leaders imposing their hegemony on the PLO decisionmaking regarding the realization of this national and pan-Arab task. This was not only demonstrated by evasiveness regarding the discussion of the prerequisites for realizing this task, but it was also demonstrated by evasiveness regarding the delineating of stands toward this issue, thus missing the chance to achieve this national and pan-Arab accomplishment. Thereby, Yasir 'Arafat has confirmed that he will not commit himself to working to bring about this relationship. Nay, he also confirmed that he does not want this relationship to materialize.

The attacks on the Fatah Uprising offices in Sidon and then in the Beirut camps and the exploding of the situation in the camps and in the Lebanese arena seek to cover up for the Bassam Abu Sharif document. Thise incidents are also attempts to open new channels with the Americans to meet their repeated and well-known demands pertaining to the materialization of an understanding on a settlement with the Zionist entity, as the United States has been asking for efforts to achieve and officially consecrate this understanding.

This has been confirmed by the immoral media campaign, the campaign which harms our people, our uprising, and our revolution, being launched by the media organs of the leaders who are imposing their hegemony on the decisionmaking within the PLO and the Fatah Central Committee against Syria, its Army, and leadership. The aim of this campaign is to create conflicts that allow Yasir 'Arafat and his course to cover up for his policies, thereby bringing about, as we have seen, the destruction of our people and revolution.

We reiterate that our stand has remained unchanged since the detonation of the situation. We have stated that we are against the inter-Palestinian infighting. We announced this stand and worked single-handedly and also with the rest of the national factions to contain the situation and resolve the problems through democratic dialogue rather than through the use of weapons. We also attempted to find a political solution to spare our people's blood and lay down the foundations for coexistence among all forces within the Palestinian revolution so that all efforts can be directed and channeled toward supporting our people's uprising.

In this regard, and in view of our national stand and responsibilities, we announce that we welcome the responsible pan-Arab initiative launched by brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September Revoltuion, which provides for returning the offices of the Fatah Uprising to the Uprising Command and also for the reinstatement of its elements therein. The initiative also provides for returning the situation to the period preceding 1 May 1988. We stress once again the need to resolve problems through dialogue. We also stress the impermissibility of resorting to arms and the need to immediately cease this destructive infighting.

We hope that the brothers within the Fatah Uprising will immediately respond favorably to this pan-Arab initiative and bring about an immediate cease-fire and give the solution all chances of success in exchange for its return to its offices. While doing so, we warn of the consequences of allowing ourselves to be dragged to the course envisaged and sought by 'Arafat. He seeks to create inter-Palestinian infighting, explode differences with Syria, and bring about a state of confusion within the national and pan-Arab steadfastness. His aim in all this is to make his policies dominant and thus create a new basis governing the relationships among the revolution's factions.

We appeal to all national forces and factions and all allies of the Palestinian revolution in both the Arab and international arenas to work toward aborting the schemes and plans which seek to perpetuate this destructive infighting which would destroy our people, our revolution, and our people's uprising. Furthermore, this infighting goes against the prerequisities needed for solidfying our national and pan-Arab steadfastness.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC Political Bureau

Algeria

Ibrahimi Discusses Issues With Syrian Charge

LD0507215488 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Today, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi received the charge d'affaires of the Syrian Arab Republic to Algeria. They discussed the following issues: the tragedy of the Palestinian camps in Beirut and the coordination of efforts to end the fratricidal killing; the consolidation of the popular uprising in the occupied territories; and the joint committed Arab efforts in accordance with the spirit of the Algiers summit and its resolutions.

Iranian Deputy Minister Praises 'Fruitful' Talks

LD0507221988 Tehran IRNA in English 2010 GMT 5 Jul 88

[names as received]

[Text] Algiers, July 5, IRNA—Deputy Minister of Heavy Industries Hassan Ramezanianpour considered his talks with Algerian officials here as "fruitful".

Speaking in an interview today at Algiers' airport prior to his departure, the Iranian official said that during his visit a letter of understanding was signed in order to further expand mutual ecoindustrial relations and to promote the volume of exchanges between the two countries.

The letter was signed by Ramezanianpour and Algerian Deputy Commerce Minister Abdul-Hamid Jabbar.

Volume of Tehran-Algiers annual trade exchanges was predicted at dlrs. 150 m., in a protocol signed during Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi's visit a few months ago during which the first Tehran-Algiers joint economic commission was held.

Detailed talks were held with Algerian ministers of commerce, heavy industry, light industry, agriculture, and deputy minister of commerce, said Ramezanianpour adding that he discussed grounds for mutual cooperations with Algerian officials.

Following the talks, he said, it was decided that the two countries exchange economic delegations frequently to follow up proper implementation of the protocol and letter of understanding signed by the two sides.

He added that grounds for mutual cooperation for manufacturing certain common products were closely examined.

Ramezanianpour said the Iranian delegation visited the 24th Algiers international trade fair in which he said the Islamic Republic actively took part.

He concluded that the two countries' officials stressed the necessity for further expansion of mutual cooperations in various fields, especially industry. Ramezanianpour had left Tehran for Algiers last week.

Briefs

Palestine Support Group Formed

Algiers, 2 July (APS)—The People's National Assembly adopted Thursday a resolution related to the creation of a parliamentary group for the support of the Palestinian cause. One of the main objectives of this working group will be to develop an action likely to favor the understanding of the Palestinian cause, to bring it the necessary support and sympathy of the international parliamentary community mainly in view of the holding of the international conference on the Middle-East which has confirmed the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. This group will also be entrusted with having permanent and regular contacts with the Palestinian National Council and contributing at the international parliamentary level in the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Arab extraordinary summit held recently in Algiers. On another development other groups of friendship were constituted with parliaments of Senegal, Bulgaria, France, Great Britain, Japan, Turkey, Italy and Federal Republic of Germany. [Text] *[LD0307001088 Algiers APS in English 1007 GMT 2 Jul 88]*

Egypt

Iran's Recourse to UN Security Council Viewed

NC0707063488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR expresses astonishment at Iran's recourse to the UN Security Council, calling for an emergency session to discuss the downing of an Iranian airliner over the Gulf. The paper says that Iran has refused implementation of this very council's Resolution No 598 that was issued nearly 1 year ago on halting the Gulf war. This resolution was immediately approved by Iraq, the paper says.

In Thursday's editorial, the paper declares that this resolution, had it been implemented, would have restored tranquillity and peace to the Gulf region and precluded the occurrence of such incidents as that of the aircraft tragedy and the loss of innocent lives. The paper expresses regret that this resolution has been added to the thousands of resolutions which the international organization has been unable to implement because of maneuvers and countermaneuvers to obstruct them.

The paper concludes its commentary by referring to the message which U.S. President Ronald Reagan has sent to the Tehran rulers expressing hope that the victims of this tragedy will be the last in this protracted conflict. The

paper asserts, however, that good intentions are not enough; it is imperative that serious and persistent efforts be made by all parties to carry them out.

Repercussions of Airliner Downing Assessed

NC0607130788 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Ibrahim Wahbi commentary: "The Brink of the Abyss in the Gulf"]

[Text] The shooting down of the Iranian airliner with its passengers over the Gulf might be a serious turning point in the Iran-Iraq war. Washington declared that the incident took place by mistake, whereas Tehran maintains that the airliner was deliberately shot down and that the incident falls within the framework of a political strategy and is not, therefore, accidental. Whatever the truth, however, Iran may use this incident as a pretext to unleash acts of terrorism and to launch what may be called the war of airliners to add to the war of cities, tankers, and chemical weapons.

Iran has hinted that it will avenge the incident. Naturally, any act of vengeance will be countered. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati did not miss the opportunity to threaten the worst possible actions. He warned that similar disasters may occur if the United Nations and other international organizations fail to condemn the United States.

In the meantime, Iranian opposition leader Mas'ud Rajavi, who resides in Baghdad, warned the United States against allowing the Iranian Government to exploit the incident to make political or financial gains, emphasizing that the Iranian regime does not care for the lives of its people.

The Iranian stand was summed up by the Iranian ambassador in Washington at a news conference when he said that the U.S. apology is insufficent. He noted, however, that if the United States were to change its policy and not intervene in the Gulf, the matter would be different. For this reason we maintain that it is high time that the world intensified its efforts to prevent the war from assuming even graver dimensions that may threaten a new world war in which the entire Middle East would be the first to bear the brunt.

Sometimes it is necessary for a situation to reach the brink of a precipice to prompt the world to hasten and intensify efforts to salvage what is possible. We believe that the situation in the Gulf has indeed reached the edge of the precipice and requires the big powers and the United Nations to take a firmer and more effective stand to end this destructive war, even if the situation requires collective steps against the party that does not comply with a decision to stop the war.

From a human point of view, the disaster is more serious than any similar incident in history. It is more serious than the incident of the Korean airliner, which was shot down by the Soviet Union. It surpasses the incident of the Libyan airliner, which was shot down by Israel over the Sinai in 1972. However, the circumstances surrounding the shooting down of the Iranian airliner over the Gulf forebode perils.

The positive development that looms on the horizon is that Iran has resorted to the United Nations after boycotting its sessions for a long time on the pretext that it is biased toward Iraq and that the big powers are opposed to Iran. Resorting to the United Nations is a positive development and may help raise the issue of Resolution 598, which calls for an end to the war and which Iran has rejected. To sum up, the situation in the Gulf has now reached the brink of the abyss.

Prime Minister Sidqi Begins Visit to Baghdad

Mubarak Message for Saddam

NC0407124588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi in the Presidential Palace in Al-Qubbah. After the meeting, Sidqi disclosed that President Mubarak had given him a message for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn which he will deliver during his visit to Baghdad beginning tomorrow, God willing.

'Atif Sidqi said that the executive regulation of the fund-receiving law will be formulated before 15 July. He stressed that good initiatives have been made by a large number of fund-receiving companies, the majority of which now understand the importance of this law. He pointed out that the law does not prohibit fund companies from doing business, despite the fact that certain countries like Kuwait, Turkey, and the United States prohibit such companies. He said that the new law aims at regulating these companies and guarantees the rights of depositors.

The law also makes these companies fulfill their commitments, the prime minister added. He said that certain companies have not stumbled and are carrying out their business appropriately. As a matter of fact, most of these companies follow this pattern.

Asked about the IMF delegation's visit to Egypt, Sidqi said that the IMF's primary role is to assist Egypt in its dealings with creditor countries regarding both the rescheduling of debts and obtaining additional foreign currency to help achieve the economic reforms.

Sidqi Departs 5 Jul

NC0507072388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi departed from Cairo for Baghdad this morning at the head of an Egyptian ministerial delegation on a 3-day visit, during which he will attend meetings of the third session of the joint Egyptian-Iraqi Higher Committee.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Sidqi described Egyptian-Iraqi relations as extremely good and relations between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Saddam Husayn as the best. He added that he is carrying a message from President Mubarak to President Saddam Husayn. The prime minister also revealed that, during this visit, he will sign an agreement on scientific cooperation and cultural exchange. He also will discuss the signing of a number of agreements on labor, social security, and double taxation.

Replying to a question on a visit by President Saddam Husayn to Egypt, Dr Sidqi said Egypt is always ready to welcome the Iraqi president as a dear guest at any time he chooses in light of fraternal Iraq's circumstances. He called for intensifying cooperation between Egypt and Iraq for the benefit of the Arab nation.

Economy Minister Leaves for Baghdad 3 Jul

NC0307203088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jul (MENA)—Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa left Cairo for Baghdad this evening on a visit to Iraq that will last for a few days. While in Baghdad, Dr Mustafa will lead Egypt's delegation to the meetings of the committee preparing for the new round of the joint Egyptian-Iraqi Higher Committee meetings, which will be held in Baghdad from 5 to 7 July.

In a predeparture statement, the economy minister said that the Egyptian-Iraqi talks will cover the economic, trade, agricultural, health, cultural, transportation, and communication fields, as well as cooperation in security, training, and social insurance.

He added that a barter deal amounting to $400 million will be concluded between the two countries, with each country providing goods worth $200 million. An agreement on export of goods by both countries' trade centers will also be concluded, giving each trade center between $3 million and $5 million worth of exports, he added. Dr Mustafa also noted the present bilateral cooperation in production of diesel engines, steel, and telephone cables.

Mubarak Receives Messages From Leaders

Sudanese Premier

NC0407091588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received two Sudanese messages today, the first from Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the second from members of the State Council. The messages dealt with the constitutional developments in Sudan, the national accord government, and the steps being taken to implement the Brotherhood Charter.

This was stated by Sudanese State Council member Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din following his audience with President Mubarak today. He said that he had conveyed to President Mubarak the greetings of the Sudanese people and Government, the State Council members, and the prime minister, who will visit Cairo in October to attend the meetings of the two countries' Joint Higher Committee. He added that some bilateral issues of concern were discussed at the meeting, particularly the Brotherhood Charter and the regional issues that concern Sudan and Egypt.

Lebanese President

NC0407073088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a message from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil this morning. The message was handed to his excellency by Ambassador Hasan Shash, head of the Egyptian interests mission in Lebanon.

Jordan's Husayn

NC0107153188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1526 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA)—His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan made a telephone call to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this afternoon.

The Jordanian king exchanged views with the president on a number of Arab issues and matters of mutual interest.

Reportage on Visit by Soviet Trade Delegation

Arrives 4 Jul

NC0507033088 Cairo MENA in English 2210 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, July 4 (MENA)—A Soviet economic delegation arrived here tonight from Moscow for a week-long visit under the chairman of the Joint Ventures Agency of the Foreign Trade Ministry.

The delegation will have talks on the possibility of cooperation in establishing joint ventures in Egypt and the Soviet Union in areas of food, woodcraft, metallurgical and chemical industries.

The Soviet delegation will be having meetings with officials of the Economy Ministry, the businessmen's association, the Industries Federation and the Chambers of Commerce Federation.

Talks Begin 5 Jul

NC0507212088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—The Egyptian Federation of Industries led by Federation Chief Eng 'Adil Jazarin held a meeting today with a Soviet foreign trade delegation under the chairmanship of Yuriy Voroday, deputy trade representative in Cairo. They discussed ways to develop export exchange and promote bilateral trade and joint ventures.

Eng Jazarin stated that such meetings will continue to be held by the two sides with a view to conducting further consultations and talks between Egyptian and Soviet officials.

The Soviet delegation head noted that the new laws in the Soviet Union allow the setting up of joint investment projects between Egyptian and Soviet companies and institutions in order to establish joint capital companies.

Meanwhile, Muhsin Shihab, chairman of the public sector for foreign trade, said that during the meeting he called for increasing the volume of trade between Egypt and the Soviet Union to double the current value, which amounted to approximately 1 billion pounds sterling in 1987, especially since the economic cooperation between the two countries represents a major part of their economic relations in general.

Shihab pointed out that numerous commodities which had been taken off the Egyptian export lists are still being exported to the Soviet Union from other countries. He noted that it was time that the Soviet Union allow these items to be included on the Egyptian export lists once again. These goods, he added, are cigarettes and leather products.

For his part, Yuriy Kalban, chairman of the Foreign Economic Relations Department at the Soviet Trade Ministry [name and title as received], made a statement, saying that he had explained at the meeting the recently issued Soviet laws, which aim to encourage foreign investments and pave the way for new ventures in the Soviet Union, especially since there is a full 2-year tax exemption.

He pointed out that it is believed there is a real possibility of expanded cooperation between Egyptian businessmen and public sector companies and Soviet companies, noting that both the Egyptian and Soviet markets are large. Kalban said it is now possible for Egyptian and Soviet trade institutions to deal directly with each other and sign agreements.

Participating in these meetings on the Egyptian side were representatives from the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Industry, the Industrial Development Bank, and foreign trade companies, as well as a number of producers who deal with Soviet markets. The Soviet side included a number of officials from the Soviet Embassy and the Soviet trade representation office.

Tourism Ministry Official Leaves for Moscow

NC0507094188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0918 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—Hamdi al-Shami, first under secretary at the Tourism Ministry, left Cairo for Moscow this morning at the head of a tourism delegation on a 1-week visit to the Soviet Union.

In a predeparture statement, Al-Shami said that he will hold talks with Soviet officials on the means of boosting bilateral tourism cooperation. A protocol on tourism cooperation in all tourism and hotel fields also will be signed during the visit, he added.

Makramallah Leaves for Sofia, Prague

NC0407195088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1631 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, left Cairo for Sofia this evening at the head of a large economic delegation from various ministries that will participate in the joint Egyptian-Bulgarian committee meetings.

Before his departure, Makramallah stated that the joint committee will discuss means of bolstering economic and technical relations and the possibility of giving mutual trade between Egypt and Bulgaria preferential treatment, such as in customs exemptions and overcoming investment obstacles and problems.

Makramallah said that after his 3-day visit to Bulgaria, he will leave for the CSSR on a 4-day visit in order to discuss various aspects of cooperation between the two countries. During his tour, he noted, two protocols on economic and technical cooperation are expected to be signed between Egypt and both of these countries.

Debt Rescheduling Agreement Signed With Sweden

NC0407141388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1134 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—A debts rescheduling agreement was signed today at the Ministry of International Cooperation between the Egyptian and Swedish Governments, in accordance with the agreement reached at the Paris Club in May. The agreement was signed for Egypt by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zahawi, first secretary at the Ministry of International Cooperation, and for Sweden by Swedish Ambassador in Cairo Lars-Olof Brilioth.

Al-Zahawi said that this agreement will enable the Egyptian Government to reschedule the payments due between January 1987 and June 1988. The Egyptian Government is also given a 5-year grace period and can begin paying the installments in 1992.

He noted that an agreement, acceptable to both governments, was also reached on the debt installments and interest, as well as the method of payment. The Egyptian Government is expected to sign debt rescheduling agreements with its remaining creditor countries during July.

Two Assistants to Defense Minister Named

JN0207105288 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 30 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] President Husni Mubarak, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, has issued a decree appointing Major General Kamal Sulayman Mansur and Maj Gen Muhammad Mazhar Mustafa 'Isa assistants to the minister of defense.

Maj Gen Kamal Mansur graduated from the War College in 1953. He is a fellow of the Nasir Higher Military Academy. He held all senior command posts in the Armed Forces and was chief of the artillery corps. He took part in the 1973 October war.

Maj Gen Muhammad Mazhar 'Isa graduated from the War College in 1953. He is a fellow of the Nasir Higher Military Academy. He held all senior command posts in the Armed Forces and was commander of the Northern Military Region and subsequently chairman of the Armed Forces Inspection Commission. During the glorious October war he served in the Armed Forces General Command.

Libya

Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Arrives on Visit

Makes Statement

LD0307161688 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1555 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 3 July (JANA)—Neculai Ibanescu, Romanian deputy prime minister and chairman of the Romanian side of the Libyan Arab-Romanian committee, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Romanian deputy prime minister made a statement to JANA's correspondent in which he said: I have come to the Great Jamahiriyah in my capacity as chairman of the Romanian side of the joint economic committee.

He added that this visit is aimed at consolidating the relations between the two friendly countries, expanding the economic and trade relations, and consolidating the trade and industrial exchanges between the two countries.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0507141888 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Neculai Ibanescu, who handed the brother leader a message from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

First Group of Pilgrims Departs by Ship

LD0207131988 Tripoli JANA in English 0847 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal, Nasir [July] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The ship "Gharnata" left the port of Banghazi yesterday carrying 800 Libyan pilgrims as the first batch of the pilgrims to the holy land for this year.

Furthermore the groups of pilgrims are to start accordingly by air too as the first batch will leave within the next two days.

Commerce Protocol Concluded With North Korea

LD0507021388 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Pyongyang, Nasir [July] 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The protocol of the fifth session of the joint Libyan Arab-Korean committee was concluded yesterday. It was signed by the secretary of the People's Committee for Communication and Marine Transport and the Korean Minister of External Economy Mr. Chong. This protocol is on cooperation in the field of commerce, installations and oil. Also, an executive programme on cultural and information cooperation between Great Al-Jamahiriyah and Democratic People's Republic of Korea was signed. It is on bilateral cooperation between the 2 countries in the field of information and culture for the period 1988-1990.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks With PDRY President

LD0407233188 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] A telephone contact between the brother leader of the revolution and the Yemeni [People's Democratic Republic] President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas has taken place. It dealt with the issue of fratricide among brother Palestinians and the need for Arab intervention to stop this fighting and to turn their rifles on the Zionist enemy.

President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas assured the brother leader about the removal of borders between the two parts of Yemen in thousands with identity cards, as was the case between the Great Jamahiriyah, Tunisia, Algeria and Sudan. [sentence as heard]

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Cable to Algeria's Bendjedid

LD0507225188 Tripoli JANA in English 1634 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution sent a cable to President Chadli Bendjedid. It reads as follows:

The day of Algeria's independence is one of the most prominent days in the history of the Arabs. Its price was caravans of martyrs offered by the Algerian Arab people with unrivaled generosity. It gives us pride on such an historic day to see those who made it in the positions of high responsibility in Algeria and on their head you Brother Mujahid President and your courageous comrades.

What is assuring is that those who made independence by way of the revolution are capable of continuing with it to achieve the goals of independence which is not consolidated without the independence of Palestine, establishing Arab unity and inflicting the final defeat upon imperialism and colonialism.

May you remain a treasure.

Forward, our revolutionary struggle continues.

Maltese Prime Minister Received for Talks

LD0607221788 Tripoli JANA in English 1638 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Valetta, Nasir [July] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Dr. Fenech Adami, the prime minister of Malta, has lauded the promotion of cooperation relations between his people and the Libyan Arab people.

During his meeting yesterday with the secretary of the people's committee of Tripoli's municipality, Mr. Fenech Adami reaffirmed the desire on the part of his country to further and strengthen the relations of cooperation between Great Al-Jamahiriya and Malta.

Meanwhile, the above Libyan Arab secretary met yesterday with the parliament secretary of the Maltese ministry of industry. He also met with the Maltese vice-minister of foreign affairs.

Their talks focused on ways of promoting the cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Malian President's Message

LD0407103188 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Jul (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received Moulaye Mohamed Haidara, the personal envoy of President Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali and current OAU chairman, who conveyed to him a written message from President Moussa Traore, as well as a verbal message dealing with current African and international issues, as well as bilateral cooperation.

Sudan

Defense Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia

JN0407121088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1027 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, July 4 (SUNA)—Defence Minister General (retired) 'Abd Al-Majid Khalil returned here yesterday concluding a visit to Saudi Arabia during which he handed to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz a written message from Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

The minister said in a press statement upon arrival that he had conveyed to the Saudi monarch the gratitude of the Sudanese Government and people for the continued Saudi support to the Sudan.

Khalil added that King Fahd has reaffirmed that the Kingdom would always stand beside Sudan.

Armed Forces Commander Makes 2-Day Visit to Juba

EA3000161700 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 30 Jun 8

[Text] Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad Ali, commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, and the delegation accompanying his excellency, returned to Khartoum today after a 2-day visit to Juba town during which he acquainted himself with the security conditions in the Equatorial military zone. His excellency received the deterrent brigade forces which left Khartoum for Juba by land. He praised the victories they had achieved.

His excellency emphasized the Armed Forces' ability to achieve security and stability and purge the Equatorial Region of outlaws.

SPLA Warns Government Troops To Surrender

EA0207095288 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] The overall commander of SPLA forces in the eastern bank of eastern Equatoria, Alternate Commander Gilario Modi Horinyang, has warned the enemy soldiers still holding out in Torit, Keyala, Ikotos, Parajok, and Nimule to surrender themselves to the nearest SPLA unit.

Alternate Commander Gilario assured the enemy soldiers in the above mentioned garrison town that the SPLA has tightened its siege on them and they should not, therefore, expect any reinforcement on the road or by air. The airspace, he said, has been (?made) impossible and dangerous for any aircraft, and the roads have become impassable.

He appealed to the government soldiers in these towns to heed the warning and save themselves from starvation and subsequent death from combat SPLA operations that are due to be carried out against those of the enemy soldiers who still insist on holding out in those towns.

Alternate Commander Gilario Modi reassured the government soldiers in the eastern bank that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is only using them for his own political end and will not save them from the dangers of the war.

He assured them that the movement will welcome them all into its ranks, if they surrender. Never wait until it is too late. Otherwise, the blame will go to you, said Alternate Commander Gilario Madi Horinyang to the enemy troops in Torit, Keyala, Ikotos, Parajok, and Nimule.

Anya Nya II Clashes With Rebels Reported

EA0407103688 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1455 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Anya Nya II (?power) brigade forces in Ayod Area, under the commander [as heard] of Lieutenant [name indistinct], clashed with the SPLA communist rebels at (Muguk) on 10th June 1988. During the engagement, 25 SPLA rebels were killed and 30 others were injured. Two SPLA were captured. [passage omitted]

Anya Nya II (?power) brigade forces under the commander [as heard] of Colonel (Gordon Kong Panypiny) captured SPLA bases at (Ruquon Chot), (Modit), (Onyuk) in Wau (?rural area). Two SPLA stores full of ammunition and the other [word indistinct] of military equipment are captured. Twenty-eight SPLA were killed in the fighting, 30 others were injured. Thirty-eight Kalashnikov, one RPG-7 were also captured.

In another development, 95 SPLA soldiers belongs [as heard] to renegade General Gordon Kong Chuol defected from SPLA to the Anya Nya II (?power) brigade forces of Yirol in (?Wau rural) area.

Anya Nya II (?power) brigade forces under the combined forces of Yirol and Jabal an Nar, under the commander [as heard] of Colonel [name indistinct], Colonel (Bos Teny), Colonel [name indistinct], have clashed with the SPLA in (Pam Azaraf) on 12th May. Five SPLA were captured with their guns. [passage omitted] twenty-five SPLA rebels were killed in the fighting, 40 were injured, 18 automatic rifles were also captured.

Military Official Says 'Outlaws' Defeated

JN0707120988 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1024 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum (SUNA) 7 Jul 88—The Armed Forces have managed to drive away the remnants of the outlaws in the Equatoria Region. They defeated them in the battle of Tawarit in the past weeks and destroyed their equipment and supply vehicles. They killed 150 of them whereas 10 soldiers of the Armed Forces were martyred in the battle.

The deterrent brigade managed to seize a large number of rebel camps during its march in the southern regions until it entered Burr and reached Waw.

This was made clear by Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, acting commander in chief of the Popular Armed Forces in an interview appearing in today's issue of AL-SIYASAH. He said that the general command is devoting itself to setting up a comprehensive plan to develop military and administrative skills so that the Armed Forces perform their duties in the best possible way.

SPLM Spokesman on Meeting With Parties

EA0607215488 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The official SPLM-SPLA spokesman has described as totally false and unfounded the reports circulating in some parts of Khartoum to the effect that the movement has refused to meet the delegation of the Union of Sudanese African Parties [USAP].

In a statement to Radio SPLA, he said that when the delegation arrived in Addis Ababa there were preliminary talks in a cordial atmosphere a few hours after the delegation's arrival. During last night's session, the delegation gave an account of all peace initiatives embarked upon by the various Sudanese political parties and alliance forces. The SPLM and USAP delegations expressed their sincere commitment to bringing about a peace acceptable to all concerned.

The SPLM delegation was led by Comrade Dr Yusuf Kuwah Makki, alternate member of the SPLM-SPLA military-political high command and included Comrades Capt Aten Yaak Atem, Capt 'Abd al-Aziz Adam al-Hulw, Capt (Patrick Ayitang) and Capt (James Wis).

The USAP delegation was led by Dr Andrew Wieu Riak, the Union's official spokesman, and included the Honorable Paul David, member of the Progressive People-'sParty and member of the Constituent Assembly from Yei; Zizi, member of SAPCO [Sudanese African People's Congress] and member of the Constituent Assembly for Yambio.

'Big Quantities' of Oil Found in Central Region

JN0407112088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, July 4 (SUNA)—The researches and studies carried out by Sudan-Sun Oil Company confirmed the presence of big quantities of oil at Abu Jin area, [place name as received] Central Region, Energy and Mining Minister Bakri Ahmad 'Adil said yesterday.

He pointed out that the company will begin to produce oil after the rainy season, adding that the government is currently exerting efforts to resume work at oil production areas in the south and southwestern of the country.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Tehran Notes Attack on Norwegian Tanker

LD0307184988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Quoting shipping sources in the Persian Gulf, REUTER reports: Today, gunboats attacked and set alight a Norwegian oil tanker in the southern Persian Gulf. According to REUTER, the attack on the 55,361-tonne "Berge Strand" did not result in any casualties.

Ship's Distress Call Possibly 'False Alarm'

NC0607061488 Paris AFP in English 0601 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Manama, July 6 (AFP)—A distress call believed to report that Iranian speedboats had attacked the South Korean ship "Atlantic Ocean" at dawn Wednesday in the Strait of Hormuz may have been a false alarm, shipping sources here said.

The alleged attack was not independently confirmed several hours after the message was first broadcast.

Shipping sources earlier reported picking up a distress call from the ship's captain saying there was a fire aboard, but not saying if there were any casualties.

According to the sources, the call could have been a practical joke by a radio buff with equipment capable of sending messages on the same frequency.

Several such incidents have been reported since the Gulf war began over seven years ago.

The call did not follow normal naval procedures, the sources said, since the person broadmasting it did not specify the vessel's exact location and sent the message only once, whereas normal practice is to repeat it.

It would have been the first attack by Iranian speedboats against neutral shipping since Sunday when the U.S. cruiser "Vincennes" shot down an Iranian Airbus with the loss of all 290 people aboard.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Receives Velayati Message

LD0607150888 Kuwait KUNA in English 1356 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 6 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Wednesday received a written message from his Iranian counterpart dealing with the tragic incident of the Iranian Airbus, it was officially announced here.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed gratitude for Kuwait's condolences over the incident of the plane which was shot down by an American warship in the Gulf Sunday killing all people aborad.

The plane was shot down while flying over an area of military clashes between American naval units and Iranian gunboats.

The Iranian message also included condolences for the Kuwaiti citizens who were aboard the Airbus, the announcement said.

Shaykh Sabah for his part sent a reply message that contained Kuwait's gratitude for the Iranian condolences.

Shaykh Sabah stressed that the incident requires investigation as to clear the circumstances of the case and take all required measures to prevent a repeat.

Shaykh Sabah also expressed hope that security and stability would prevail in the region to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

Private Plane Will Return Airliner Victims

LD0607161088 Kuwait KUNA in English 1437 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 6 (KUNA)—KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY Wednesday learned that H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah has decided to send a private airplane to bring bodies of a number of Kuwaiti victims believed killed during the downing of an Iranian airplane by U.S. forces in the Arab Gulf last Sunday.

Contacts are underway to verify the death of the Kuwaitis in the incident and confirm the recovery of the bodies.

Iran Bears 'Grave Responsibility' for Tragedy

JN0607132788 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 5 Jul 88 p 6

["Opinion" column by Ahmad al-Jarallah entitled: "Time for Iran To Return to Its Senses"]

[Text] Undoubtedly, we are against the U.S. action in shooting down an Iranian passenger plane. Basically, we have always been against the killing of innocent people.

Although, the U.S. categorically admitted it was a mistake, Iran bears a grave responsibility for the incident as it has contributed to this unfortunate incident by being the main cause in not bringing the Gulf war to an end. The lives of the innocent passengers would not have been lost, neither would the U.S. fleets been actively involved in Gulf waters had Iran thought of stability in this region.

Information provided to us by authoritative sources indicates that Iran is not willing to accept any apologies. It believes that it is always strong and capable of forcibly taking its rights and is now lusting for revenge. This base mentality is amply reflected in the fact that for eight long years, Iran has stubbornly continued to reject all genuine efforts at mediation towards ending the Gulf war.

Instead, each time it launched an aggression against Iraq. As each aggressive attempt failed, their feelings of revenge and rage have grown stronger. This is exactly how the Iranians lived in medieval times—over eight centuries ago.

Having given the backdrop to the Iranian thinking, we now ask: after the U.S. action will Iran react similarly in confronting the Americans as it usually does with Iraq? Will it send its Army to the USA as it does with Iraq and the Gulf states?

Would Iran face the U.S. fleets in the Gulf waters instead of confronting its Muslim brothers and killing their sons and the sons of its own soil for no valid reasons, except that it failed to achieve victory over Iraq. Defeat has created in the Iranian regime a lust for revenge. However, the U.S. act has made it bury its head in the sand—just like the foolish ostrich.

Iran can, and should really save the bloodshed of Muslims—including the blood of its own people. All that is needed, is to purge themselves of their feelings of hatred and restore good-neighbourly relations. They should, by now, realise that the countries Iran is courting towards supporting their aggression against Iraq will not support their policies.

Although Iran has been experiencing the severe adverse effects of the Gulf war for eight long years, it appears that it is still bent on heaping on itself further destruction before it comes to its senses and realises that this is a mad and futile war and in the case of Iran, the hunter has become the hunted.

Iran Called 'Partly Responsible' for Downing

LD0607125688 Kuwait KUNA in English 0803 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 5 (Kuna)—Two Kuwaiti dailies Tuesday called on Iran to abandon revenge for the U.S. downing of its civilian plane on Sunday and think instead of giving peace a chance.

"AL-SIYASAH", declaring it is against the U.S. action, held Iran partly responsible for the incident due to its constant refusal to abide by peace calls.

Iran has been in a vicious circle ever since the outbreak of the war with Iraq eight years ago, the paper pointed out, adding that following each Iraqi offensive Iran threatens a retaliatory attack.

The newspaper accused Tehran of pursuing medieval thinking while ignoring the fall of hundreds daily in the battle front that Tehran can prevent by accepting peace.

For its part, "KUWAIT TIMES", describing the incident as "a terrible human tragedy", called on Tehran to seize the occasion and accept peace.

The paper said that the event has explicitly revealed that "the explosive insecurity in the region has reached totally intolerable dimensions."

The paper advised the Iranians not to avenge their dead and rather focus on giving peace a chance, noting that the Security Council Resolution 598 provides all necessary basis for just and durable pace.

"If 290 already dead become the last to die as a result of the Gulf war, they will not have died in vain," the paper underlined.

Saudi Arabia

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Views Airbus Downing

PM0607155988 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jul 88 p 6

['Imad al-Din Adib article: "A Very Serious Situation"]

[Text] The downing of the Iranian Airbus by a U.S. missile pours more fuel on the raging fire in the region.

Regardless whether the shooting down of the Iranian airliner was an American mistake or a foolish Iranian provocation, the incident foils the numerous secret quiet diplomatic efforts the United States had been making to contain the situation with Iran.

Any observer of the results of the industrial states' summit in Toronto, Canada, must conclude that the leaders of these states are collectively agreed on easing the tension with Iran and initiating diplomatic contacts with it to improve relations. A number of developments have occurred since then which cannot be seen as mere coincidence. They are:

1. Britain's restoration of diplomatic relations with Iran.

2. The disclosure of meetings held between U.S. and Iranian officials in Algiers.

3. The fact that U.S. authorities blocked at Baltimore airport a consignment of chemical materials that was bound for Cairo aboard an Egyptian aircraft for use in the manufacture of a medium-range missile for Iraq.

4. The announcement by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn of information confirming that the United States had supplied Iran with significant data gathered from U.S. satellite photos about Iraqi concentrations.

All these are pointers to the U.S. Administration's new philosophy regarding Iran, adopted by U.S. National Security Adviser Colin Powell.

Now, after the downing of the civil aircraft, these policies are in grave danger.

What is even more crucial about the downing of the Iranian airliner is that the moderate wing of Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, who was recently appointed Army commander, will now abandon its moderation, at least temporarily, to be in tune with the call for a vendetta against the United States—a call which the hardline Montazeri wing will make.

The recent parliamentary elections in Iran have shown that the hardliners are progressively gaining popularity in Iran despite the repeated defeats on the battlefields.

That gives rise to the question: Where and when will the Iranian retaliatory strike occur?

United Arab Emirates

AL-BAYAN Notes Iranian Envoy's News Conference

JN0607161488 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 5 Jul 88 p 7

[By Sa'd Rizqallah and Yusuf Karkuti]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—Iranian Ambassador to the UAE Mostafa Fumani-Haeri has asserted that Iran will respond at the right time to the shooting down of the civilian airbus airliner by U.S. missiles. He said his country is not in a hurry to respond to the American act, but it will surely respond at the right time.

This came during a news conference held yesterday morning at the Iranian Embassy in Abu Dhabi and attended by correspondents from the local press and Arab and foreign newspapers and news agencies.

The Iranian ambassador did not accept the U.S. declaration that the shooting down of the Iranian civilian airplane was a mere mistake. He affirmed that the U.S. apology for this accident is not enough. He called on the United States to change its policy in the region and not to interfere in the region's affairs.

He called on the region's states to think about, and reconsider the U.S. presence in the region. He pointed out that the United States will not achieve peace and security in the region and that only the region's states can achieve this. He demanded the withdrawal of all foreign fleets from the Gulf.

The Iranian ambassador said: "I expect that all states in the region will express their condemnation of the U.S. attack against the Iranian airplane and that media in the region will contribute to highlighting this attack."

Asked if Iran will change its policy in the region in light of this accident, he said that his country has a firm policy and principles, and these cannot change because of an accident. He also said: "Rights and interests should be defended and we should not remain silent over falsehood."

Regarding the appropiate Iranian response to the downing of the Iranian civilian airplane, the Iranian ambassador stressed that this response will become known at the right time.

Asked if the Iranian act to retaliate against the downing of the airplane will negatively affect the course of things in the region, particularly regarding the support for the Palestinians' question and uprising, he said: "Our stand toward the strugglers in Palestine and Afghanistan is firm. But downing of civilian airplanes is another matter."

In the news conference, the Iranian ambassador denounced the accident and accused the United States of planning to undermine the security and stability of the states in the region and to escalate tension continuously. He demanded that the United States keep away from the Gulf and not interfere in the affiars of the region's states.

Mostafa Fumani-Haeri asserted that the special Iranian Navy rescue teams, with the assistance of some Italian cruisers, managed until yesterday afternoon to recover 150 bodies of victims of the Iranian civilian Airbus airplane, which was downed by the U.S. Navy in the Gulf the day before yesterday near the island on Hengam.

The airplane was on its way from the Iranian Bandar-e 'Abbas airport to Dubayy International Airport. Ambassador Haeri said that around 80 recovered bodies of victims of the airplane were identified.

Flights Between Dubayy, Iran Resumed 5 Jul

JN0607143088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1147 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Dubayy, 6 Jul (WAKH)—Flights have been resumed between Dubayy and Iran. A cargo plane left Dubayy International Airport for Tehran yesterday evening.

Dubayy AL-BAYAN said today that regular flights between Dubayy airport and Iranian airports will go back to normal as of today and added that a number of planes will carry the families of the victims of the ill-fated airbus plane to Bandar-e 'Abbas to receive their relatives' bodies.

In a related development, informed shipping sources in the UAE said that the activities of oil tankers and commerical cargo ships are proceeding normally. They added that the status of these activities remained unchanged despite the tension prevailing in the region following the downing of the Iranian plane.

AL-BAYAN quoted the traffic director at Al-Fujayrah port as saying that the port has not witnessed any noticeable increase in the number of the ships achored in the area which is an expected eventuality when there is an increase in tension in the Gulf.

He added that the number of ships anchored was as usual; namely, 25 tankers yesterday and 25 other tankers anchored at Khawr Fakkan port. [sentence as received] It has been learned that the ports' tugboats and surveillance boats have not seen or noticed anything in the UAE territorial waters off Al-Fujayrah port yesterday evening.

Yemen Arab Republic

Government Regrets Downing of Iranian Plane

JN0607202588 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2005 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The YAR Government has received with extreme regret the news of the downing of the Iranian civilian airliner over Gulf waters. While expressing its condolences to the families of the victims, it stresses its condemnation of all acts causing the death of innocent people.

The government also urges the international community to intensify its efforts to establish peace in the region and end the Iraq-Iran war which has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of innocent people and threatened world peace and security.

President Says Iran Has Lost 'Intellectual Base'
JN0607172888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has reiterated that Iraq seeks to provide the prerequisites for tranquillity, stability, and security for itself, for the Arab nation, and also for its surrounding neighbors, including the Iranians.

The president added that peace is a basic component of tranquillity. He went on to say: War and victories represent emergency situations. We were forced to be part of these situations. They are not enshrined in Iraq's policies and perspective. They do not represent the basic law of life.

This came in a speech delivered by his excllency the president during a reception he gave today to the delegations participating in the work of the 11th session of the council meetings of Arab youth and sports ministers, which were concluded here today.

His excellency the president said that Khomeyni reiterated his evil intentions against the Arab nation, against the Islamic nation, and against the human values cherished by the norms of the age and religious rules and laws, in his reply message addressed to Montazeri following the regrettable Iranian passenger plane incident.

Thus, Khomeyni has reminded the world of his evil course after the elapse of a period of time during which some forgot this evil, aggressive, expansionist, and subversive course and all the significance entailed in this course. He affirmed that the course pursued by the Arabs, the Muslims, and all the believers affiliated to heavenly religions, is clear. In other words, it is not based on the pursuit of aggresion and war, the president said.

His excellency the president continued: The course pursued by the Prophet Muhammad, may God's mercy and blessings be upon him, is based on giving advice and persuasion. The prophet used the sword in emergency situations dictated by contingencies. He added that the Iranian rulers placed Iraq in such an emergency situation that "forced it to use weapons to vindicate cherished values and defend the edifice for which we have toiled to make it reach the level attained." We still have much ground to cover to bring this edifice to higher elevations, the president added.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn affirmed that Iran has lost its intellectual base and thus has been defeated in the war when faced with the intellectual base employed by the Iraqis and the Arabs in fights and duels. He added that Iraq scored victories in the 8th year of the war on the most unfavorable terrain in the history of wars in general, and not only in the history of the Iraq-Iran war in particular.

He went on to say that this means that the victory achieved is not a technical one and not one caused by numerical advantages or disadvantages pertaining to the numbers of those enlisted in the Iraqi and Iranian armies. He said that this also means that the victory is not attributable to better training or to increase in or lack of arms, despite the fact that this factor is an important one when there is a clash of two wills. The president added that the basic thing in the victories achieved is that Iran has lost its intellectual base and thus has been defeated.

In this regard, the president referred to the great victory scored by Mojahedin-e Khalq in Mehran and said: Mojahedin-e Khalq scored a victory in Mehran and crushed a number of Iranian divisions despite the fact that they are civilians. This confirms that the intellectual base of the Iranian rulers has been defeated. Mojahedin-e Khalq fighters are genuine and militant Iranians who have reached the conclusion that their regime poses dangers to the Iranian peoples, and not only to Iraq, the Arabs, the Muslims, and all believers of the world.

The president went on to say that the evil intellectual fabric which is composed of a mixture of aggression and expansionism upon which Khomeyni's thought is based, has worn out. He said that it is in the interests of mankind, all Arabs and Muslims, to see this intellectual fabric wear out and also to see Iran's intentions exposed to the largest extent possible, "so that God will spare us the evil of this fire which is coming from the east."

President Saddam Husayn said that if the Iranian rulers persist in their pursuit of evil, "they will harvest nothing other than further defeats and setbacks." He went on to say that the good people will continue to hold their heads high and enjoy tranquillity and pride. He affirmed that the Iraqis are behaving with a sense of responsibility and are motivated by in-depth analyses. He added that the slogan of crushing the aggression is upheld by all. He said: The Iraqis will continue to support the Arabs and explore ways for interaction with their brothers in all political, economic, social, intellectual, youth, and sports spheres.

President Saddam Husayn said that Iraq is fighting to vindicate religious values and universal values, including those which stipulate that man has the right to lead a happy life. Furthermore, Iraq wishes to see all individuals live in peace, freedom, stability, and tranquillity, and lead a happy life.

The president added that the Iranian rulers must learn the lessons to be drawn from their past experiences and also from their recent experiences. The lesson to be learned, the president said, is that the hope of upholding the slogan of death and destruction and the pursuit of the military option to achieve their evil objectives of expanding and building their long-awaited empire will

get them nowhere. They have also to reach the conclusion that their relationship, not only with Iraq, but also with the Arab nation and the entire world, must be based on mutual respect if they want to live in dignity.

The president indicated that the Iranian aggression has not only affected Iraq. It has also affected Bahrain, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia more than once, he said. The most dangerous and blatant aggression perpetrated by Iran is the one committed not only against Saudi Arabia, but also through its aggression against Saudi Arabia, its aggression against "all those who believe in one God and who also believe that the houses of God and the holy Ka'bah are holy." He added that this aggressive bent has been obvious to Iraq since the beginning, since September 1980. Since that time, he said, Iraq has believed that Iran's aggression will affect the Ka'bah, as this is in harmony with Iran's policies.

His excellency the president said that the Iranian rulers seek to impose their hegemony on the holy sites of believers and Muslims to use them as tools to achieve their evil objectives under the guise of religion. He warned that the dangers posed by Iran under the Khomeyni regime and his followers not only affect the Arabs and Iraq, but also affect large parts of the world.

The president added that the Khomeyni regime seeks to divide the Arab nation and sow sedition and turmoil within its ranks to neutralize its role in construction and fraternal solidarity. He voiced the hope that the constructive approach being sought by "all of our Arab presidents and kings" will continue, as this will allow the Arab nation to live in peace and happily. This will allow them to transmit this status with its positive effects to the Islamic nation in particular and mankind in general.

He added: This would be an exercise of their human role, which was demonstrated in the past by the bright links of civilization when the Arab nation was playing a human role through its bountiful offerings to mankind and also through the interaction displayed in its relationship with all humanity.

Reportage on Visit of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

Arrives 3 Jul

JN0307151888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jul (INA)—This afternoon, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Bagdhad on an official visit to Iraq.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah told INA he is carrying a written message from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, to his brother, President Saddam Husayn, concerning regional developments and fraternal ties between the two countries. He expressed his congratulations to the people, Army, and leadership of Iraq in the name of Kuwait on the great victories that were crowned with the liberation of occupied territory. These victories should add to the dignity of Iraq and all Arabs, he added.

On hand to welcome Shaykh al-Ahmad at the airport were Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad.

Received by President

JN0307161588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1541 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jul (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received a personal envoy from his brother, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. The envoy, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait, gave a written message from the amir of Kuwait to President Saddam Husayn congratulating him on the victories of the Iraqi Armed Forces and the liberation of occupied territory from the oppressive Iranian enemy. The letter also dealt with the close, developing ties between the two fraternal countries.

Present at the meeting were Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Baghdad.

Received by Tariq 'Aziz

JN0307183588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jul (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz this evening received his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, currently visiting Iraq.

They discussed the latest developments in Iranian aggression against Iraq and its repercussions for the security and stability of the Arabian Gulf countries.

Reportage on Visit by Egyptian Prime Minister

Ramadan Comments on Relations

NC0407091088 Cairo MENA in English 0830 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 4 (MENA)—First Deputy Premier and member of the Revolution Command Council Taha Yasin Ramadan hailed efforts made by President Husni Mubarak for overcoming problems Egypt faces and for maintaining good relations with all the Arab states.

Ramadan told MENA that he welcomed a visit to Iraq tomorrow by Egyptian Premier Dr 'Atif Sidqi. He further affirmed that this visit would help promote bilateral relations in all fields.

Ramadan said Egypt and Iraq share common interests, adding that such meetings help realise the two countries' objectives and are also in the interest of the Arab nation.

He said the ideas which crystallised following the arrival in Baghdad of members of the Egyptian preparatory committee in the joint higher committee, are the result of directives by President Mubarak and the president's genuine wish to develop Egypto-Iraqi relations.

Ramadan further stressed the common wish of Presidents Mubarak and Saddam Husayn, and their patriotic keenness on building distinguished relations between their two countries.

Ramadan Receives Egypt's Sidqi

JN0507220288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1916 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jul (INA)—This evening, Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, held a closed meeting with Egypt's Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. Ramadan noted, during the meeting, the qualitative development in Iraqi-Egyptian relations embodied in the activities of the higher joint committee between the two sisterly countries. He affirmed President Saddam Husayn's concern for issues of Iraqi-Egyptian cooperation and for the need to expand this cooperation to embody the cultural, economic, and civilized potentials of the Arab people in the two states.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi noted that President Husni Mubarak attaches great importance to fraternal cooperation between Iraq and Egypt to achieve integration in various fields, in order to meet the aspirations of the leaderships and peoples of the two states. Dr 'Atif Sdiqi reiterated Egypt's support for Iraq in its glorious defense of the entire Arab nation.

The first session of the higher Iraqi-Egyptian joint committee then began. Taha Yasin Ramadan led the Iraqi side while Dr 'Atif Sidqi led the Egyptian side. Ramadan reviewed, during the meeting, the dimensions of Iraqi-Egyptian cooperation and the role of the joint committee in reinforcing cooperation and in opening new vistas, out of concern of the two countries to strengthen their fraternal relations in all economic trade, technical, cultural, and scientific fields. Ramadan affirmed the need to expand bilateral cooperation to cover fields of cooperation between labor, party, popular, vocational, and other organizations.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi affirmed the need to continue steps of Iraqi-Egyptian cooperation proceeding from the deep fraternal ties between the two fraternal countries throughout history.

At the conclusion of the first session, Taha Yasin Ramadan and Dr 'Atif Sidqi signed an agreement to organize the work of the joint technical committees stemming from the joint committee to discuss economic trade, technical, cultural, information, labor, and legal issues.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, transport and communications minister; Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab, interior minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; Babakr Mahmud Rasul, labor and social affairs minister; Mundhir Ibrahim al-Shawi, higher education and scientific research minister; Karim Hasan Rida, agriculture and irrigation minister; Brigadier General Husayn Kamil, acting industry and minerals minister; Tahir Muhammad Hassun al-Marzuq, housing and reconstruction minister; and the under secretaries of the Foreign and Industry and Minerals Ministries.

They were attended on the Egyptian side by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Eng Sulayman Mutawalli Sulayman, transport and communications minister; Eng Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, housing and reconstruction minister; Jamal al-Din al-Sayyid Ibrahim, minister of state for military production; Safwat al-Sharif, information minister; Zaki Badr, interior minister; 'Asim 'Abd al-Haq Salih, manpower and training minister; Dr 'Adil 'Izz, scientific research minister of state; Fu'ad Sultan, tourism minister; and a number of officials.

Mubarak's Message Delivered

JN0607110088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received a message from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak here today. Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi delivered the message when President Saddam Husayn received him and his delegation.

An authorized INA source said that the Egyptian message deals with Egypt's—president, people, and government—support for Iraq in its legitimate defense of its territory and the Arab nation's eastern flank, dignity, and pride. The source added that the message also includes congratulations from the fraternal Egyptian people and President Mubarak to President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people on the great victories of the Iraqi forces and their regaining the Arab nation's territory.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the close fraternal relations between Iraq and Egypt, ways to promote them in all fields, and the current Arab situation.

The source said that during the meeting, President Saddam Husayn stressed Iraq's concern about further promoting ties of solidarity among the Arab countries with the objective of reinforcing their ability to confront challenges to them.

The two sides also discussed the work of the first session of the Iraqi-Egyptian higher joint committee for technical, scientific, and economic cooperation and the important agreements that are in force. The president gave instructions to achieve the committee's work quickly, due to the important role it plays in the economic, social, scientific, and technical relations between the two fraternal countries, in a manner reinforcing the Arab nation's potential and bolstering its march of development and progress.

President Saddam Husayn asked Dr 'Atif Sidqi and the accompanying delegation to convey his greetings and wishes of progress and happiness to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the fraternal Egyptian people. [passage omitted]

Received by Tariq 'Aziz

JN0607193188 Baghdad INA in English 1315 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 6, INA—Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Mr. Tariq 'Aziz met here today his Egyptian counterpart Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

During the meeting, means of promoting bilateral relations, developments of the Iranian aggression on Iraq and issues of mutual interest were discussed.

On another level, Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Mr. Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi conferred here today with his Egyptian counterpart Mr. Sulayman Mutawalli Sulayman on means of developing bilateral cooperation in fields of transportation of goods and passengers and expanding joint ventures for land and sea transportation.

The two ministers are members of the delegation accompanying the Egyptian Premier Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, now on a visit to Iraq.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,248

JN0607175788 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,248 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The combat activities of our victorious Armed Forces for last night and today were as follows:

1. The planes of our heroic Air Force carried out 123 combat missions to carry out the two tasks mentioned in our Communique No 3,247, which was issued at noon today, and also to deal blows to the enemy troops in the operation theaters. During these missions, our planes inflicted further losses on the aggressors. Having flown this number of missions, all of our planes returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. The courageous knights of our helicopter gunships today carried out 74 combat sorties. They inflicted further losses on the enemy in personnel, weapons, and vehicles. Then, they returned with their helicopter gunships safely to base, God be praised.

3. One tank was destroyed and five ammunition dumps were blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector. Two ammunition dumps were blown up in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

4. Eleven scoundrels were killed, 2 single-barreled machine guns were destroyed, and 2 ammunition dumps were blown up in the II Army Corps central sector. Furthermore, one vehicle was set ablaze and destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. Five enemy personnel were killed and two machineguns of different types were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. Another enemy soldier was killed and one observation post was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. Two scoundrels were killed and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. The vile Khomeyniites used long-range artillery to shell residential quarters in the township of Darband-i Khan last night. The enemy shelling martyred seven civilians, including five children and one woman, and demolished four houses. May paradise be the final abode of our martyrs, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 July 1988

Raids Into Iran Denied

JN0707065488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0550 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jul (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman today denied that Iraqi aircraft carried out any activity inside Iran yesterday.

The spokesman was responding to Iranian claims that Iraqi aircraft attacked other targets.

The Iraqi military spokesman said that Iraqi aircraft yesterday attacked only Gorreh and Emam Hasan oil pumping stations in southern Iran.

Rabin Tours Gaza, Meets With Palestinians

TA0607174088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made some soothing remarks today, when he said that the decrease in the number of violent incidents in the territories is continuing. The defense minister toured the Gaza Strip today and was briefed by senior officers. Our army affairs correspondent, Karmela Menashe, reports:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] Accompanied by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, and senior IDF officers, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin called on IDF units in the Gaza Strip and conferred with Egyptian education inspectors who are in the area to oversee high school matriculation exams ending tomorrow. The defense minister once again stressed that the purpose is to prevent all forms of violence.

[Rabin] The number of violent incidents which characterized the first months of the uprising is continuing to drop; this kind of activity has dropped significantly. At the same time, however, due to the Army's presence, these activities—stone and firebomb throwing—tend to be more localized. As far as violence is concerned, quelling this sort of activity is now our main objective.

[Menashe] The defense minister noted that the objective is to preclude violence on the one hand and, on the other hand, to allow the inhabitants to run their lives under a military government. The minister said he had held talks and meetings with Arab dignitaries, but he would not elaborate on their content.

[Rabin] These were talks between myself on behalf of the government—the government ruling the territories—and local inhabitants about their real problems. They approached me with their positions and requests, but I will not go into detail. My purpose was to make our intentions—whether they like them or not—plain to them. It would be better if they liked them, because they will be the ones who will suffer the consequences. [end recording]

Versions of 'Uprising' Leaflet No 21 Compared

TA0607174688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Leaflet No 21 of the Unified National Command of the Uprising, which calls on the inhabitants to step up the uprising, has been distributed in Judaea and Samaria in the last few days. Our correspondent in the territories Arye Gus reports that two versions—and there are even rumors about a third one—have actually been distributed.

[Begin Gus recording] This is not the first time that several versions of the same leaflet, all of them allegedly on behalf of the united national command of the uprising, have been distributed. In the past, these were attributed to the various PLO factions, such as Fatah or left-wing supporters. This time, however, Arab sources argue that one of the leaflets is phoney and was not written by Arabs, and there is even talk about a third leaflet bearing the number 21.

Generally speaking, there is nothing really new in the leaflets and their text is quite similar to previous ones. While one leaflet—considered that of Fatah—is worded in practical and matter-of-fact language, however, the second leaflet gets bogged down in highfalutin words and slogans, includes a sharp attack against President al-Asad and Syria's actions in Lebanon, and calls Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] the 'Alawite butcher.

One leaflet, called the Al-Aqsa leaflet, mentions the incidents in East Jerusalem and calls on the inhabitants to hold prayers to protest the attempts to harm the holy sites of Islam and Christianity. This leaflet also congratulates the democratic forces in Israel who support the Palestinian cause. Both leaflets call for going ahead with the intifada [uprising], the civil disobedience, and the boycott of Israeli products, and deplore what they term the appalling conditions in the detention camps. Nevertheless, one can learn from the the orders issued in the leaflets about the worsening condition of the population.

There are warnings against thefts, profiteering, blackmail, and tensions between Christians and Muslims. As usual, the leaflets assign days for protests, strikes, and demonstrations, but while one leaflet talks about 2 days here and another day there, the second leaflet talks about a 1-week strike to mark the anniversary of the signing of the Palestinian National Charter. [end recording]

Soldier Charged With Killing Arab 4 Months Ago

TA0207191188 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] An IDF soldier was charged this weekend with killing an Arab inhabitant of the territories. Our army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky notes that these are the most serious charges pressed by the military advocate general since the beginning of the uprising in the territories. The incident in question took place 4 months ago in the village of Biddu in the Ramallah District. The soldier shot the Arab youngster at very close range with a rubber bullet, hitting him in the eye. The youngster later died in the hospital.

Our correspondent adds that the Military Police Criminal Investigation Division this week completed its investigation into two other cases. One of them refers to the maltreatment of detainees in Al-Zahiriyah prison, and the military police recommend that a reservist and two

regular army soldiers be brought to trial. The second case deals with an incident in which an Arab was hit in the face by a rubber bullet fired at close range.

Military Court To Try 'Terrorist' Arsonists
TA0407125888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] People caught setting forest fires whose terrorist intentions are clearly determined will be tried in military courts. This was announced today by State Attorney Yona Blatman who appeared before the Knesset Interior Committee. He added that the State Attorney's Office is currently examining the possibility of claiming damages of up to 30,000 shekels from arsonists.

Investigation Lags Involving Settlers 'Inaccurate'
TA0307063188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The state attorney has said that the criticism leveled by a senior military source on procrastination in carrying out investigations in cases involving Jewish settlers in the territories is inaccurate and unfortunate. If some IDF element wishes to comment on the performance of the State Attorney's Office, it can find the proper ways to do so. State Attorney Yona Blatman said that the body he is in charge of is not an investigations bureau. Consequently, if there is any delay in carrying out investigations, it results from the activity of the defense or police bodies involved. [passage omitted]

Outgoing Liaison Commander Comments on Lebanon
TA0307120988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Iran invests about $100 million a year in southern Lebanon, with about 60 percent of it in civilian areas. This was stated today by Brigadier General David Agmon, the outgoing commander of the liaison unit with southern Lebanon, in a news conference in Tel Aviv. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that according to Agmon, Iran transfers weapons to southern Lebanon via Syria.

Brig Gen Agmon added that Israel invests $3.5 million a year in civilian areas in southern Lebanon. He pointed out that the IDF's recent operations in southern Lebanon dealt a severe blow to Hizballah, and this organization is currently less active in the security zone.

Agmon said the position of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] in the area had strengthened. He noted that in the last 1 and ½ years there had been over 20 attacks on SLA positions and that all of them, with the exception of one, had failed. Only on one occasion had Hizballah men managed to take over a position and seize equipment. The SLA soldiers who were stationed in that position and fled were dismissed by SLA commander Antoine Lahd. At present, there are 2,000 soldiers in the SLA and there are no problems recruiting new soldiers.

In sum, Agmon said, the security zone has proved its efficiency. The fact is that the northern border is quiet and there are very few attacks on our northern settlements.

Herut Faces Rift If Levi Denied Top Knesset Spot
TA0407065988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jul 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] A crisis loomed over Herut yesterday as Minister David Levi's supporters threatened a rift unless he was elected to the first place in the party's Knesset list after its leader Yitzhaq Shamir at the party's internal elections Wednesday.

The tension among Herut's camps in preparation for the elections reached a peak yesterday evening when Levi and Minister Ar'iel Sharon demonstratively absented themselves from a meeting of Central Committee activists attended by Shamir and Minister Moshe Arens, called to show the movement's unity.

Shamir tried to avert the crisis by calling on Central Committee members to support all Herut's ministers and place them at the top of the list, stressing that the place of each minister on the list will not determine his role in the next government.

"We have excellent people, from Deputy Prime Minister David Levi through all the ministers. The movement must be united. I will form a government with the best, regardless of their place on the list," Shamir said.

Both Levi and Sharon had confirmed their attendance at yesterday's meeting, which was organized by Herut Young Guard Chairman and Knesset candidate Mikhael Ratzon.

Levi attributed his absence to technical reasons, but sources close to him said yesterday that he did not come to the "unity meeting" because he felt the unity was false. "What kind of unity is it if Levi agreed not to contend against Shamir on the movement leadership, and then Arens decides to run against him for the first slot in the first septet (equivalent to second place after Shamir)?" the sources said. "It's a false unity."

The sources said that if Levi fails to get the top slot it would arouse "strong emotions" among his followers in the Central Committee and among his constituents, which would damage Herut and its unity in the country.

Meanwhile, Levi and Sharon reached a mutual support deal last night by which both camps would vote for Levi for the first place in the first septet and for Sharon for the second place.

If the deal holds out until Wednesday, either Knesset Member Eliyahu Ben-Elisar (of Levi's camp) or Knesset Member David Magen (of Sharon's camp), both of whom are running for the fifth place in the first septet, will have to be content to run for a lower place on the list. The deal also includes placing Levi's and Sharon's supporters in realistic places on the list.

Sharon yesterday asked Shamir to intervene in the rivalry among the camps and "establish order" among the ministers. Sharon, who spoke at another meeting at Kefar Hamaccabiah yesterday, was referring to a list which Magen said was being distributed by Shamir-Arens supporters, placing Levi's and Sharon's people in low places on the list.

In a letter to Shamir which Sharon read out at the meeting, he wrote: "Arens made a bad mistake to push people who Levi and I support from every possible place (on the list).

"It's enough to win. There is no need to persecute. If I were in your place I would intervene. It's not too late. I would establish order among the ministers."

According to the "secret list" Magen said he received from reliable sources, Shamir-Arens candidates were placed in the first five places in the first septet, while the last two places were taken by "straw candidates." Sharon and Levi themselves appeared on this list in the first two places in the third septet.

Deputy Minister Roni Milo (Shamir-Arens camp) yesterday denied the existence of any such list.

Shamir warned at the meeting yesterday that the public would not place its trust in Herut and vote for it unless the party was united.

Arens suggested that Sharon, Levi, and himself should abide by the decision of the Central Committee as demonstrated by Wednesday's election results.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 4 July reports on an interview with Minister Ari'el Sharon in which he announced that "he would ask to be placed 22d on Herut's Knesset list to prove that national interests overrule personal or partisan considerations. Mr Sharon called on the prime minister to summon Herut leaders in order to look for a way to close party ranks."]

Levi 1st, Sharon 2d on List

TA0607165788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Here are the results of the elections in Herut: David Levi has been ranked first on the list of candidates elected today, while Ari'el Sharon came out second, Moshe Arens—third, Moshe Qatzav—fourth, Binyamin Netanyahu—fifth, David Magen—sixth, and Beni Begin—seventh place.

Eliyahu Ben-Elisar and Roni Milo, who ran for the sixth place, did not receive enough votes, and they are not included in the first septet. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had recommended that Moshe Arens be placed second and Ari'el Sharon be ranked third on the list, but the members of Herut's Central Committee voted otherwise. The first septet does not include any of Levi's followers, except for Levi himself who, as said, was ranked first.

Shamir Sees 'No Divisions'

TA0707111988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir says he regrets the fact that no women were elected to realistic places on the Herut list but, the prime minister told reporter Mark Weiss, he did not believe the elections highlighted divisions within the Herut Party.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] There are no divisions within the party. There are some so-called factions, personal factions, but it is a normal phenomenon. You have like this in many big parties in the world. I think the party is united, and if there was any tension before the internal elections—and it is normal that there is a tension between many candidates who want to be elected—this tension does not exist anymore.

[Weiss] Minister David Levi has stated that in the event of a Likud victory in the next elections, he would be interested in being the next foreign minister. Do you think his election for the No.2 spot after yourself strengthens his claim?

[Shamir] I cannot say anything about the various functions members of Herut will exercise when and if we will establish the Government of Israel. I have not thought yet about it.

[Weiss] Are you worried that there are no women or Druze representatives on a realistic spot on the Herut list?

[Shamir] Well, I regret this. The problem of the women, I regret this because we have not a special system for fixing a certain place for women. I think maybe we have to repair it.

[Weiss] A number of current Knesset members were voted to relatively low places on the list. Do you think, in the light of this, there will be an attempt to review the electoral agreement with the Liberals?

[Shamir] Not at all, not at all. I don't think there is any connection between these two problems. We have an agreement with the Liberal Party, and this agreement is not connected with the results of our internal elections. [end recording]

Arab League's Klibi Arrives in Amman 4 Jul

JN0507075088 Amman Domestic Service in English 0430 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Amman last night to participate in an extraordinary session of the Arab Social and Economic Council which is due to begin its deliberations today.

In an arrival statement, Mr Klibi said participants would discuss means of boosting joint Arab action in the social and economic fields in line with decisions endorsed by an Arab summit conference in Amman in 1980. He voiced confidence that reconciliation acheived in the lastest Arab summit conferences in Amman and Algiers would contribute to the success of the current extraordinary session.

Received by King Husayn

JN0507221088 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] His majesty the king received the Arab League Secretary General, Mr Chedli Klibi at the Hashemite Royal Court this afternoon. Mr Klibi expressed his deep appreciation of the role played by his majesty in bringing about Arab solidarity and reconciliation. Mr Klibi also commended his majesty's efforts which helped to make the Algiers Arab summit conference a success. Talks during the meeting dealt with the Arab situation in general following the Algiers summit.

His majesty the king also received heads and members of the delegations taking part in the extraordinary meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council which began in Amman today.

Both meetings were attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, and the chief chamberlain.

Prime Minister Addresses Arab Economic Council

JN0507221488 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] On behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i today opened a special meeting for the Arab Economic and Social Council at the Royal Cultural Center. Addressing the ministers of finance and economy fropm the Arab League nations participating in the meeting, Mr al-Rifa'i noted that the extraordinary Arab summit conference which convened in Amman last November had reinstated confidence in common Arab action. The summit also showed a unanimous Arab desire to reinforce understanding among Arab nations. Last month's summit in Algiers, Mr al-Rifa'i added, maintained the spirit of the Amman summit and underscored Arab leaders' willingness to finding a common approach promoting Arab unity.

The prime minister pointed to the report filed by the council's eight-member committee which stressed the need to support specialized pan-Arab councils and organizations and raise the level of their performance. Mr al-Rifa'i praised the great efforts exerted over the past 2 and ½ years by the committee to encourage Arab action and reactivate Arab organizations.

The prime minister said that because the world is witnessing rapid changes and developments, regional arrangements are imposing themselves on the world political economic and political maps. He went on to say that the Arab nations which share a common homeland, language, history, heritage, and faith confront many challenges threatening its security. The Arab nation, Mr al-Rifa'i said, should be the strongest in this strategic part of the world and no time should be wasted when it comes to making important decisions.

Mr al-Rifa'i called on the ministers to put the resolutions of the Amman summit into effect. He said those resolutions relating to the fulfillment of financial obligations towards specialized organizations call for special attention. The prime minister voiced his confidence that the ministers would adopt decisions beneficial to the entire Arab world.

Earlier, the Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade, chairman of the meeting, thanked Jordan for hosting the gathering and for its persistent endeavors to cement Arab common action. He said that issues of development, economic and trade integration, and food security are of paramount importance to the nation in the forthcoming decade.

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, addressing the ministers, praised Jordan's efforts in contributing to the process of common Arab action and rectifying its course.

The 2-day meeting will discuss conditions of common Arab economic institutions and means of developing them, and promoting their efficiency and effectiveness.

Commission Condemns Jerusalem Excavation Work

JN0507105688 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs Monday deplored Israel's attempts to carry out excavation work in the Haram al-Sharif complex and paid tribute to the Arab people of Jerusalem who confronted Israeli troops and excavators and stopped their work.

Commission member Sa'id Ra'if Nijm said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, that the Israeli attempt was clearly designed to endanger the holy sites at Haram al-Sharif and to obliterate the Islamic cultural and historical character of the holy city.

The excavation, which is designed to open a tunnel allowing Jews to reach the holy site from underground, has brought about the collapse of a number of historic buildings above the tunnel and cracks in many others, Najm said.

He said that in view of the Israeli Army's support for the excavators and in the light of the failure by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to interfere and stop the diggings despite repeated Arab appeals, the Muslim people of the holy city had no alternative but to clash with the excavators and troops and force them to stop the work.

Najm said the Israelis had already dug 600 metres underground to reach the western walls of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Demonstrations erupted in Jerusalem Sunday when diggers guarded by soldiers and border police began to excavate what was described as a second century B.C. water tunnel at one of several entrances to Haram al-Sharif.

Paper on King Husayn's Visits to Algeria, UK

JN0207074688 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
2 Jul 88 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "At the Front Line of the Arab Effort"]

[Text] After his distinguished role in the Algiers summit and his successful talks in London, during which European support for the Arab cause was renewed, His Majesty King Husayn returned to Amman. He is making unified efforts, at home and abroad, to bring about joint Arab action and gather additional international support for a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Needless to say, this is in line with the call, which Jordan has long been making and emphasizing in its activity, for joint Arab action as an indispensable factor for mobilizing and using Arab resources to defend Arab rights and push forward the the desired peace process in the region.

This means that the mechanism needed for pushing forward the peace process must be basically Arab, stemming from an Arab reality that is up to the challenges. Jordan was eager for the Arabs to build the mechanism by themselves. It has succeeded remarkably in this. It laid the foundations of this mechanism at the Amman summit of reconciliation and accord, followed its growth at the Algiers summit, and gave it all it could to become strong and effective.

On the other hand, Jordan, through its pan-Arab commitment, and in light of its wide experience, has realized that Arab credibility is what concentrates international support for the Arab cause. His Majesty King Husayn used Jordanian credibility, one of the foundations of Arab credibility, for this purpose.

Hence his contacts on the international arena succeeded, thanks to Husayn's remarkable international status, in bearing abundant fruit and contributing to developing the European position and achieving a consensus on the need to convene an international conference. These contacts have also laid out the principle of land for peace, which is now unanimously accepted in the international arena.

Therefore, the idea of unity of action at home and abroad, which characterizes Husayn's efforts for the Arab cause, has managed to remain in the forefront of the continuous Arab action on both Arab and international arenas, consolidating this continuity day after day.

Our coherent unified family, which is proud of its leader and his efforts in the service of the Arab nation, renews the pledge that it will continue to be the strong fortress of national unity and pan-Arab commitment, and remain a model of the Arab realism that faces challenges with patience, awareness, and competence, until the usurped Arab rights are regained and a real peace in the region is attained.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Lauds Al-Rifa'i Visit to Syria

JN0407105088 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
4 Jul 88 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Al-Rifa'i's Damascus Visit Another Step Forward"]

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has paid a successful visit to Syria during which he conveyed a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad when received by him. Expanded talks were also held with Syrian officials headed by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The visit had results and signs that will be useful and fruitful for both countries.

The visit is one of a series of meetings of the joint Jordanian-Syrian committee. It is a large stride forward at a time which is seeing increased importance of cooperation and coordination in economic and trade fields in the interest of the two fraternal countries.

During the past 2 days, lengthy, specialized talks were held covering joint cooperation and the promotion of the existing bilateral means of cooperation in the economic, trade, and joint companies fields.

The deep-rooted relations between Jordan and the Arab states, especially Syria, require the boosting of relations to the desired level and being bound with joint interests and the interests of the Arab nation to which we belong.

During the meetings of the higher joint committee in Damascus, Al-Rifa'i and Al-Zu'bi expressed the strength of brotherly relations between the two fraternal peoples and countries on various levels and various fields.

Undoubtedly, the promotion and development of economic and trade ties among the fraternal Arab countries helps to achieve pan-Arab interests. Establishing economic unity and integrity among the Arab countries clears the way for eliminating the existing build-up of negative elements in the Arab world. These factors lead to a wider and deeper understanding among the Arab states and peoples and toward the unity of stands, efforts, and objectives.

Therefore, any advance in building a network of friendly relations between two or more sisterly countries in our Arab world turns over a black tragic page in the history of tyranny and colonization and opens a new one in inter-Arab relations.

We always say that with happiness whenever higher joint committees between Jordan and sisterly Arab countries meet, hoping for further steps toward integration among Arab countries with the same economic circulation. Such steps end long years of agony suffered by our people and countries under the state of divisions, fragmentation, and disagreement which prevailed for a long time among Arab states.

We hope for further gains by us and Syria in particular and by all sisterly Arab countries in general to unify Arab interests as well as the unity of existence and destiny among the entire Arab nation.

The challenges posed to our nation from all directions urge us to exert further efforts to end divisions and collectively to defend the supreme pan-Arab interest. We believe that the current state provides our nation with the best opportunities to achieve the greatest gains in terms of unifying its economic, trade, political, and social situation in addition to unifying its positions on the conflicts that are aimed against the entire Arab nation.

AL-RA'Y on King's Talks With Iraqi President

JN0507091888 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
5 Jul 88 p 1

[Editorial: "A Translation of Pan-Arab Commitment"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and the accompanying delegation paid a visit to fraternal Iraq yesterday in continuation of the process of consultations and coordination between Amman and Baghdad which the leaders of the two fraternal countries are eager to maintain. His majesty held successful talks with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and senior Iraqi officials during the visit.

It goes without saying that this visit and the talks that were held during it expressed feelings of pride and pleasure at the honorable victories scored by the valiant Iraqi Army. These victories strengthen the Arab position and struggle against challenges.

At the same time,, these victories should prompt the Iranian leadership to reconsider its calculations and become convinced that the continuation of this war against Iraq is catastrophic and wastes opportunities for an honorable peace called for by Iraq—a peace to establish stability in the Gulf area and develop normal relations between the two neighbors based on mutural respect and noninterference in each country's own affairs.

Meanwhile, the two leaders' meeting has enabled them to exchange viewpoints regarding developments in the occupied territories, as well as regarding future Arab action in light of the Algiers summit resolutions and King Husayn's successful contacts in the international arena. Naturally, the development of a joint vision by the two Arab leaders is a translation of pan-Arab commitment, to which they adhere. This joint vision also constitutes a pillar for comprehensive Arab coordination in confronting challenges.

In its distinguished pan-Arab relations with Baghdad, Damascus, Cairo, and all Arab capitals, Amman has managed to build firm bridges for coordinated Arab action. It also managed to entrench conviction in the unity of pan-Arab struggle as an itegrated struggle and an only option. Undoubtedly, the intensive efforts led by Amman and Baghdad and shared by Arab countries to expedite an end to the Iraq-Iran war are results of the belief in the need to establish an honorable peace between Iraq and Iran. They are also a expressions of the need to rally all forces and resources to resist Zionist aggression, given that it is the gravest danger threatening the region.

As all Arabs know, Jordan will remain a bastion for pan-Arab action and an active force under King Husayn to secure continued coordination and joint Arab action until dangers are averted and genuine peace and stability are established in the Arab arena.

Reportage on Reaction to Airliner Downing

Demonstrations in Beirut

NC0607122788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] West Beirut and the southern suburb have been invited to continue to stage demonstrations in protest against the downing of the Iranian plane by the U.S. Navy in the Gulf. What is permitted in West Beirut and the suburb is prohibited in Al-Biqa', Ba'labakk, and the South; areas where the Syrians are present.

Security sources have revealed to the Voice of Lebanon that Iranian Embassy and Hizballah officials have agreed to stage protest demonstrations until Friday. One of these demonstrations was held yesterday. Mass processions will be staged and speeches will be delivered focusing on the U.S. attack on the Iranian plane and the killing of approximately 290 passengers.

According to the same sources, the expected demonstrations will take place in the streets of West Beirut and the southern suburb only. The sources explained that the contacts held between the Iranian Embassy in Beirut and the pro-'Arafat Palestinian wing led to an agreement to support the protest demonstrations and processions in order to achieve two basic objectives:

First, to highlight the strength of Iran, which supports the 'Arafat loyalists in the southern suburb and West Beirut, despite the presence of the Syrian forces there, and to involve university students to confirm Hizballah's influence at the various Shi'ite levels.

The second objective behind Iran's sympathy with 'Arafat is to distract attention from the situation in the Burj al-Barajinah camp, after it had been ascertained that fighters of 'Arafat's Fatah had been evacuated in their civilian attire together with 80 percent of the camp's inhabitants. There also is talk about defections by 'Arafat followers to the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] group.

What will the Syrian stand be regarding all these developments, particularly the anti-U.S. demonstrations. According to available information, Syrian troops have taken all preparations to face any possibility. They have taken extraordinary security measures and informed Hizballah that the demonstrations should not deviate from their original purpose of protest. Hizballah also has been warned that these demonstrations should not deteriorate into disturbances, pointing to yesterday's demonstrations during which masked groups hid weapons under their clothes.

Reprisals Threatened

NC0707054488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Today, the AL-SAFIR newspaper published a statement by the Middle East branch of the Islamic Republic Party [Hizb al-Jumhuriyah al-Islamiyah, Iqlim al-Sharq al-Awsat] in which it announces that it intends to carry out reprisals in various parts of the world for the downing of the Iranian plane.

Further Reportage on Status of U.S. Hostages

'Secret' Syria-Iran Talks

NC0607172788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY has reported that intensive secret consultations are underway between Syria and Iran on the issue of the foreign hostages being held in Lebanon. The agency says that these consultations have made good progress and that some results might appear when the military situation in Burj al-Barajinah is resolved.

Execution Postponed

NC0607175388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1738 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] At the request of Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akhbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the pro-Iran Islamic Jihad organization today adjourned the implementation of the death sentence it threatened to carry out yesterday against U.S. hostage Terry Anderson.

Revenge Threatened

NC0707044488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] The Revolutionary Justice Organization, which is holding several American nationals as hostages, has threatened to revenge the downing of the Iranian airliner. In a statement delivered this morning to a foreign news agency in Beirut, authenticated by a picture of the passport of U.S. hostage Edward Tracy, the organization said that the hostage card will be used as part of a comprehensive retaliation. The organization said that the presence of fleets which behave criminally in the Gulf will have inevitable repercussions on the security of the U.S. presence throughout the world. Our fighters will know how to select their targets, the statement said.

The organization added that it has monitored all the positions of support or condemnation of the U.S. crime. Those who have condemned this crime, the organization said, will be viewed as friends of the region's people, while those who expressed support will be considered accessories to the crime. Those who try to conceal or misrepresent the crime are spiteful and worthy of punishment.

Syria Said To Warn Kidnappers

NC0707091788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] The Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD newspaper has reported that Syria has warned the kidnappers of the U.S. hostages of the consequences of carrying out any reprisal for the criminal downing of the Iranian civilian plane. The paper cites U.S. diplomatic sources in London as saying that Syria has urged the U.S. Administration to punish those responsible for shooting down the plane and to pay reparations to the families of the victims. The Syrian request was made during contacts between the two countries on Monday.

Reportage on Fight for Burj al-Barajinah Camp

Tensions High

NC0607164188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Tension has been high in the Burj al-Barajinah camps since this afternoon, in the wake of clashes between the warring parties in the camp. A Palestinian source has reported that the camp neighborhoods came under artillery and rocket fire of various calibers. Abu al-Fatah, an official of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front in the camp, and a girl member of the PFLP were wounded and a civilian woman killed in the fighting. Ambulances evacuated the injured persons.

In another development, representatives of the Palestinian factions and the Lebanese nationalist parties held a meeting today at the house of 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, to discuss the issue and take the necessary measures.

Unilateral Cease-Fire Declared

NC0607171188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The Palestinian dissidents have announced that they will unilaterally observe a cease-fire as of 1800 today in order to give 'Arafat's fighters a chance to leave Burj al-Barajinah camp. Meanwhile, security sources have indicated that 40 pro-'Arafat fighters have joined the dissidents.

It is worth noting that the dissidents' artillery in the mountain area participated in the bombardment of 'Arafat's positions in Burj al-Barajinah camp today.

In another development, sources close to Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Popular Nasirite Organization, have cited Sa'd as saying that he absolutely refuses to have more Palestinians brought into East Sidon. Therefore, current consultations are focusing on the possibility of transporting the Palestinians to Tunisia by air.

Dissident sources have emphasized that discussions are underway between Algerian officials and diplomats and the Syrian military command to draw up a plan to evacuate about 100 pro-'Arafat fighters from Burj al-Barajinah camp, including Abu Riyad Sultan Abu al-'Aynayn, the camp's military commander, who has asked for Syrian protection and guarantees for his safety. However, dissident sources have insisted that all the weapons of the pro-'Arafat fighters be handed over.

Kan'an Assesses Situation

NC0607184288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, received Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian security and intelligence in Lebanon, at his residence this evening. Brig Gen Kan'an was accompanied by Brig Gen 'Ali Hammud, chief of the Syrian observers in Lebanon. The discussion during the meeting dealt with the current situation.

Brig Gen Kan'an, who arrived in Beirut today, had met earlier with Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council.

After his meeting with Speaker al-Husayni, Brig Gen Kan'an was asked about the situation in the camps. He said: Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] triggered the fighting, and he who started the tension will bear the consequences.

Asked about the possible deployment of Syrian troops in Iqlim al-Kharrub, Brig Gen Kan'an stressed that nothing of the sort is taking place. He was also asked whether the tension in the camps constitutes an attempt to undermine the presidential elections. He replied: Ask the person who sparked off the tension and [words indistinct]; ask Yasir 'Arafat. We are trying to help so that the tension neither affects the camps nor the situation in general. But, the party who started the flare-up is known, and you know who started it in Sidon and then tried to move it to Beirut.

Asked if he expects the tension to spread to the Sidon camps, Brig Gen Kan'an said: Ask Yasir 'Arafat.

Cease-Fire Collapses

NC0707055188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] The unilateral cease-fire declared by the Palestinian dissidents last night in order to give the pro-'Arafat forces the opportunity to leave Burj al-Barajinah camp, as their sources had announced, was broken this morning. Fighting between the two parties began again at 0615 today and the sounds of exploding shells reverberated in various parts of the capital until 0645.

'Arafat Loyalists Surrender Sought

NC0707073588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] A Fatah-the Uprising source told the NNA a short time ago that the situation in Burj al-Barajinah camp is now nearly decided in Fatah-the Uprising's favor. The source expressed his group's determination to avoid further bloodshed and to use peaceful negotiations to secure the surrender of the pro-'Arafat forces, which are still fighting inside the camp.

It has been reported that Sultan Abu al-'Aynayn, a follower of 'Arafat, and a number of his supporters, still control a small pocket inside the camp. Leading figures in the camp are contacting him at the present time in an attempt to persuade him to surrender to avoid further bloodshed and to protect the citizens of the camps.

According to the same source, more than 450 pro-'Arafat personnel have left the camp since the fighting started. He added that these men are totally free to choose their destination provided that they do not again join the forces of 'Arafat, who persists in provoking fighting inside the camp.

Factions Oppose Camp Evacuation

NC0707112388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] The camps war continues to be an inflammatory issue. Although it has abated somewhat in the military sphere, it has become more intense in the political sphere. In a joint statement issued today, which included an indirect position rejecting Syrian hegemony over the camps and expressing support for the Fatah Movement, the four Palestinian factions which are not a party to the current fighting—PFLP, DFLP, Palestine Liberation Front, and Palestinian Communist Party—asserted that they will not participate in any initiative which seeks to evacuate individuals or groups from any Palestinian camp, irrespective of their political affiliations. The four factions demanded that a political solution be found that would guarantee coexistence among all Palestinian factions inside the camps in Lebanon.

12 Killed, 25 Wounded

NC0707120788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Citing what it described as independent Palestinian sources, REUTER reported that supporters of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat today began negotiations with Syria and its Palestinian allies concerning their evacuation from Burj al-Barajinah camp. According to these sources, Sultan Abu al-'Aynayn, military commander of 'Arafat loyalists in the camp, has informed Syrian officers and Fatah-the Uprising of his willingness to leave the camp.

Eyewitnesses have been cited as saying that at least 10 of 'Arafat's loyalists left the camp through its eastern gate and surrendered to the Syrian forces, who have checkpoints at the camp's various entrances.

According to the latest reports concerning Burj al-Barajinah camp, the dissidents are now in control of two-thirds of its western and southern areas. In these areas, the followers of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] enjoy complete freedom of movement, save for the occasional mortar shell which lands on these parts. 'Arafat's followers, which approximate 100 men in total, move rather warily in the remaining one-third of the camp to the east, an area which is subjected to frequent machinegun fire.

The dissidents are reportedly massing forces in the western and southern sections of the camp preparatory to launching a certain military action. It is said that 12 were killed and 25 wounded during the recent bout of fighting.

Fighters Prepare To Leave Camp

NC0707125088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] AFP has quoted various Palestinian sources as saying that the fighters of the Fatah Central Committee are getting ready to leave Burj al-Barajinah. Dr Marwan Faris [official in the Syrian Social Nationalist Party] told the agency that a delegation from the national parties will meet with Syrian officers this afternoon to discuss how the Fatah fighters will be evacuated and what their destination will be. He added that Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud, head of the Syrian observers in Lebanon, is not opposed to the departure of the Fatah fighters to Sidon.

In another development, Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary general of the Fatah-the Uprising, today told the BBC that Yasir 'Arafat triggered the fighting. He added: I would have preferred to settle whatever demands he wanted us to accede to through a democratic dialogue and political methods. I believe that 'Arafat imposed this in order to get us to agree to his political programs, as represented by his latest document bearing the name of Bassam Abu Sharif, which seeks reconciliation with and recognition of Israel and the termination of the Palestinian issue, he added.

Asked what fate awaits 'Arafat's followers after they leave the camps and who will take charge of the camps afterward, Abu Musa said: The fate of 'Arafat's followers who have left Shatila is known. They asked to go to

Sidon and we facilitated their departure from the camp. Now the 'Arafat loyalists present in Burj al-Barajinah arerequesting to leave. I believe they want to go to Sidon as well. As for the camps and who will supervise them, I believe that full responsibility lies with the residents of the camps. From now on, he added, the Palestinian national factions must form their own security committees to maintain security in the camps and restore calm to the residents of the camps.

Military Operations Said 'Over'

NC0707131488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] A short while ago, Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi received a telephone call from Abu Fadi Hammad, an official of Fatah-the Uprising, informing him that the military operations in the Burj al-Barajinah camp are over.

Radio on U.S. Motives for Downing Airliner

JN0707084188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Palestine Broadcast: From the "Spotlight" feature]

[Text] We can imagine that among the motives for the ugly American crime of committing a massacre against the passengers of a civilian Iranian plane over the Gulf on its way to Dubayy is that Washington is creating a smokescreen of tragic shock to divert world attention for a time from the schemes of crime and oppression which have just been arranged by the U.S. Administration and the Zionist oppression machine's representative, the war criminal Yitzhaq Rabin, during his visit to Washington.

We can also imagine that the U.S. crime was not a threat to Iran only, but to the Arabs also, since what happened to the Iranian plane may happen to theirs so long as the U.S. Administration uses error as an excuse to justify a massacre.

This threat is not accidential, but has come because Washington is trying to enable Israel to foil the uprising of our people and restrain Arab support for the uprising as part of its participation in the oppression operation.

Unfortunately, only from this same perspective can one realize the real motives behind aggravating the Palestinian sedition in the camps and trying to divert Arab Syria's attention from its role, the role demanded of it by the masses of the popular uprising inside the homeland as the backer and supporter of our heroic people.

This is shown through the proprietors of the degrading document [Abu Sharif document] resorting to directing haphazard charges after having fabricated and aggravated sedition.

As has become clear from their course of policy, the proprietors of the document are playing the role of the executor of Washington's policy and schemes and are trying to divert our people and their close brothers from their duties of supporting the people's uprising, after Israel's wound became so deep.

Its economy cannot withstand any more of the moral destruction that has attacked it. This is the truth behind the motives for committing criminal acts regardless of whose hands are committing them. This is because our people's uprising now is the greatest challenge for the enemies of our people, whether Zionist, agents, or imperialists.

Our heroic people will neither give up their uprising nor abandon their heroic and struggle, which they have chosen. We will not envy those who conspire over our people's struggle and try to stand their cause unless we envy their degradation and shame.

Al-Asad Discusses Hostages with FRG Official

LD0607202188 Hamburg DPA in German 1920 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Damascus (DPA)—Lothar Spaeth (CDU), premier of Baden-Wuerttemberg, has asked Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to help in freeing the German Rudolf Cordes, who is kidnapped in Lebanon.

In the course of a 2-hour talk with Al-Asad in Damascus on Wednesday evening, Spaeth referred to this important concern of the Federal Republic, the Baden Wuerttemberg Government spokesman Manfred Zach announced.

Al-Asad gave an assurance that Syria will continue to try to persuade the kidnappers in Lebanon to release the German, who was abducted in January 1987. However, Syrian influence in this hostage case is limited.

During his 4-day visit to Syria, Spaeth has already touched on the Cordes kidnapping case in talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and has asked for support.

The CDU politician drew attention to the fact that the inclination of German entrepreneurs to invest in the Near East was hampered by such incidents.

According to Zach, Near East problems were the focus of the 2-hour exchange of views with the Syrian President. Regarding the shooting down of the Iranian Airbus, Al-Asad said he did not infer that the Americans had intentionally attacked the passenger aircraft; however, it was a "dramatic error" which would further complicate the situation in the Gulf region.

Spaeth held talks in Damascus with other members of the Syrian Cabinet, in particular they discussed possibilities for expanding economic relations between the Federal Republic and Syria. Spaeth flies back to the Federal Republic on Thursday.

Damascus TV Reports Meeting

JN0607192188 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] At 1800 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Lothar Spaeth, FRG Baden Wuerttemberg prime minister [as heard], and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and FRG Ambassador in Damascus Dr Georg Schlingensiepen.

The talks revolved around the political situation in the region.

Daily on Rabin Visit, U.S. 'Credibility'

JN0207070388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Rabin and U.S. Credibility," AL-THAWRAH SAYS: The new benefits, which the visit [to the United States] by enemy war minister Yitzhaq Rabin has achieved for the Zionist entity, come as no surprise even his request to U.S. officials not to supply Arab countries with spohisticated U.S. arms.

The practical U.S. policies during the Reagan era are aimed at developing U.S.-Israeli relations to the level of a strategic alliance, making Israel an unofficial member of NATO, including it in the "Star Wars" program, and seeking Israel's continuous military superiority. All this was no surprise in light of the remarkable developments in U.S. strategy in the region.

This strategy is designed to impose political, economic, and military hegemony as well as to support the expansion and aggression policy of the Zionist entity. This entity largely and completely depends on U.S. military, economic, and financial aid.

At the same time, the Zionist entity defines the essence and form of U.S. policy in the region, thereby making the United States absolutely biased toward Israeli policy.

AL-THAWRAH continues: In light of the results of Rabin's visit to Washington and the signing of new military understanding memorandums between the two strategic allies, we should affirm that the United States insists on exposing its blatant hostility to the Arab nation and its continuous efforts to enable the Zionist entity to continue its policy of aggresion and expansion, ignoring Arab rights and bypassing the facts produced by the developments.

These facts affirm the need to defuse the high tension in the region through earnest efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace. This peace must be based on two basic facts: Israel's unconditional and complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory and the guarantee of the Palestinian Arab people's rights, particularly their right to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state.

AL-THAWRAH says: There is nothing new in what Washington will present to the Zionist enemy. The aid, for which Rabin praised the U.S. officials for their understanding of their need for his entity and for financing projects to develop modern weapons, constitutes a known U.S. stand and policy. What is new is that the results of the Rabin visit have torpedoed the credibility of U.S. policy in the region.

All U.S. officials' claims and regional tours under the pretext of the search for peace cannot hide the reality of U.S. encouragement for Israel's aggression, supplying it with aggressive tools and methods, and defining U.S. policy in accordance with the requirements of the aggressive Israeli policy, which places the region on the verge of conflagration. It is really a pro-Israel American policy.

Afghanistan

Car Bomb Exlodes in Kabul Market Killing 6

LD0607202788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Excerpt] This morning criminal extremists, in contravention of the holy religion of Islam, commited another shocking and unforgivable crime next to the shrine of Hazrat Abbas in Murad Khani, where thousands of Kabul residents buy their essential goods every day.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that this morning at 0430, when our people were returning from their morning prayers, these criminals caused another painful incident by placing high explosives of [word indistinct] type in a Bedford truck.

As a result, six of our compatriots by the names of 'Aziz Muhammad, Dost Muhammad, Muhammad 'Ali, Najaf, Khwaja, [words indistinct] and Muhammad 'Ali were martyred. All of them were drivers by profession.

Thirteen others were wounded. Also as a result of this extremist crime, 6 shops and 5 vehicles of our compatriots were completely destroyed. A number of sacred places including the shrine of Hazrat Abbas and the Pol-e Khishti Mosque have been damaged. [passage omitted]

Government, Rebel Operations, Clashes Continue

Missile Attack on Kabul

LD0607173888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Criminal extremists embarked on another shocking crime this afternoon by shedding the blood of a number of our citizens—including men, women, and children—who were trying to put out their inhumane and warmongering fire.

BAKHTAR's military correspondent has reported that the extremist opposition attacked residential areas of Kabul by firing 12 missiles at houses belonging to four of our compatriots—'Abdul Qader, Sayyed Maqsud, Fayz Muhammad, and 'Abdul Qadir—located in the (Nowabad-e Qala-e Musa), Shahr-e Now, (Kolula Poshta), and (Taymany) and (Shahrara) regions.

As a result of this, the losses reported so far are 7 of our compatriots martyred—including women and children—and another 19 persons seriously injured.

As a result of this shameful and anti-Islamic action by anti-peace extremists, the holy mosque of (Qalah-ye Musa) was damaged and four houses of our compatriots were destroyed.

Those injured in this incident were quickly taken to the hospital where they are in intensive care. The medical condition of most of them is reported to be satisfactory.

Clashes in Vardak, Kapisa

LD0307215288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] The armed forces yesterday crushed another warmongering, saboteur group while eliminating extremists from the areas around Vardak Province.

A BIA military correspondent reported from Kowt-e 'Ashrow, the capital of Vardak Province, that the people cooperated directly with the armed forces in this combat operation.

In addition to crushing a number of criminal extremists, 5 light weapons, 20 mortar shells, and 2 boxes of DsHK shells were seized and a number of enemy arms depots and hiding places were destroyed.

A number of criminal extremists, who wanted to martyr our compatriots by planting mines on public roads used by the peace-loving people of Kuhestan, Kapisa Province, were recently punished for their unholy action.

According to a BIA military correspondent, the mine exploded while being (?planted), killing four of the criminals, including [name indinstinct], the head of the group, and badly wounding two others.

Armed clashes between extremists groups with internal disagreements have increased. A BIA military correspondent reported that 10 extremists were killed and 42 badly injured in recent armed clashes in Khowst and Khugianay districts, Nangarhar Province; in the surrounding areas of (Zormalay) district, Paktia Province; and in Darveyshan district, Helmand Province.

Inter-Rebel Clashes 'Intensify'

LD0507230288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] As a result of clashes between the members of the Gulbuddin [Hikmatyar] and Rabbani groups in the villages neer Feyzabad, in Badakhshan, 4 people were killed and 10 others were wounded. BIA reports that similar clashes have taken place in other parts of the country as well, and differences between them have intensified.

Clashes in Zabol Detailed

LD0607142988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The country's armed forces have destroyed tens of weapons depots through inflicting heavy blows at the armed extremist groups in Zabol Province. According to BAKHTAR's military section, heavy losses have been

inflicted on armed extremist groups during clearing operations in Zabol Province by the armed forces with the direct cooperation of the residents of Zabol Province.

Three of the disreputable ringleaders of the extremists have been killed. As many as 8 recoilless rifles, 250 light weapons, 40,000 rounds of ammunition, 9 trucks, and 5 tractors used for the transportation of arms and ammunition have been destroyed.

Clashes in Qandahar, Nangarhar

LD0607203588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] A group of terrorists belonging to the extremist groups who attempted to rob the people's property along the highway between Qandahar city and Arghandab district, were crushed yesterday by the country's armed forces.

The BAKHTAR military section reported that as a result of this operation, carried out by direct cooperation of the people, four of these criminals were crushed and their hideouts were destroyed.

As a result of this operation one rocket-launcher with 150 rockets, (?10) heavy machineguns, and 1 light machinegun with thousands of rounds of ammunition, were also seized by the security forces.

Another group of extremists who attempted to disrupt the peaceful life of the people in the surroundings of Gowshtah district, Nangarhar Province, were crushed recently by the border units.

Kabul Under Rebel 'Pressure'

WA0707145988 Paris AFP in English 1329 GMT 7 Jul 88

Islamabad, July 7 (AFP)—Recent mujahidin victories south of the Afghan capital have resulted in increased rebel pressure on Kabul, Western diplomats said here Thursday.

With the capture of two district towns—Mohammad Agha and Baraki—in Lowgar Province last week, Kabul has fallen under direct mujahidin pressure, they said.

Anti-communist Afghan rebels known as mujahidin are fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government for control of the country as Moscow withdraws its 115,000 troops.

Baraki abuts Kabol Province in the south and is bisected by the Lowgar highway, the only remaining secure road to Kabul in the south, diplomats said.

The mujahidin's success in Mohammad Agha will further complicate security problems along the road, they said.

It could also further isolate Kabul from garrisons in eastern Paktia Province, notably at Gardeyz and Ghazni town, they added.

While confirming a rebel account that Mohammad Agha, 30 kms (18 miles) south of Kabul, was seized by mujahidin under rebel leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, the diplomats said the important town was still in resistance's hands.

In June, rebels had to abandon the strategic town of Qalat after holding it for 48 hours because they failed to dislodge Afghan Government troops at a nearby military post.

Mr. Hikmatyar, returning from Mohammad Agha, told a news conference here Wednesday that Kabul will fall within seven months.

Mujahidin captured six fully loaded trucks of military supplies while many other vehicles damaged in the rebel attack were "methodically destroyed" by the fleeing forces, diplomats said.

The seizure has enabled the rebels to intensify rocket fire off southern Kabul city and its Rish Khvor and Chahar Asiab garrisons, the diplomats said. The rebels also launched an attack on the city's Bini Hesar and Shevak districts recently, they added.

Cordovez Briefs Wakil on Iran, Pakistan Visits

LD0607173788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] This morning and this afternoon Mr 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, met with His Excellency D. Cordovez, personal envoy of the UN secretary general, in his office.

At the start of the meeting His Excellency D. Cordovez conveyed information about his visit to Iran and Pakistan. He asserted that Pakistan had promised to observe the Geneva agreements henceforth and would make efforts to implement them.

Then the foreign minister gave his excellency information about Pakistani violations, including place and circumstances. He added that Pakistan had not shown any political willingness in implementing the Geneva accords. Mr 'Abdul Wakil asked His Excellency D. Cordovez to put pressure on Pakistan to implement the Geneva agreements.

The minister of foreign affairs also said that the Republic of Afghanistan, from the inception of the Geneva agreements, made cordial and honest efforts to implement and observe them and had taken practical steps in this respect. It also cooperated with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan regarding the fulfillment of its duties.

The report adds that the minister of foreign affairs gave a banquet in honor of His Excellency D. Cordovez and the accompanying delegation in the reception hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this evening.

UN Official Says Mines 'Big Problem' for Refugees

BK0207131988 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] A spokesman for the UN coordinator for aid to Afghanistan has said there are 300,000 to 450,000 land mines in Afghanistan. These are a big problem for the return of refugees to their homeland. He said most of the mines have been laid by Kabul regime forces. There are no detailed maps of these mines and the majority of them are made of plastic which cannot be located by metal detectors.

Najibullah Holds Talks With YAR Grand Mufti

LD0607233388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] This afternoon Esteemed Afgahn President Najibullah met with Esteemed Shaykh (Ahmad Zobarah), grand mufti of the YAR, at Gol Khanah Palace, the headquarters of the presidential office.

At this meeting the Afghan president spoke about the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan's profound attention and activities to serve the sacred religion of Islam and encourage the enhanced performance of religious rituals, the restoration and expansion of the Islamic culture and education in Afghanistan, the construction and renovation of mosques and holy places as well as the improvement of living conditions and the enhancement of the political and social role for the ulema and clergy, the activities of the High Islamic Consultative Council, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment, and the department of High Council of Ulema and Clergy. The government also encourages the creation of a society for the education and study of Islamic science, religious schools, and religious institutions.

Najibullah described the national reconciliation policy for ending the war and fratricide. He made reference to recent developments in the country including the creation of the new coalition government with the participation of nonparty personalities, the Geneva accords, their observance by the Republic of Afghanistan, the irresponsible actions by the Pakistani side and the violations of the Geneva accords.

Esteemed Najibullah and its coalition government have instituted shari'a as a guide for all their activities and measures, and they take into consideration the law, tradition, and historic culture of the people. Three councils—the Constitution Council, the High Islamic Consultative Council, and High Tribunal Council—have therefore been created within the framework of the Presidential office to advise the president on relevant matters.

Esteemed (Ahmad Zobarah) expressed delight in meeting Esteemed President Najibullah of the Republic of Afghanistan, and he said that the spiteful propaganda by some foreign countries portrays the situation in Afghanistan in a very different light.

He said: Now I see for myself that the people and Government of Afghanistan profoundly adhere to the religion of Islam which, with all its truth and right path, guides all their political and social activities.

He said: I will tell my Yemeni compatriots, all Muslims in Arab and Islamic countries, and all humanity that the Afghan Government earnestly serves Islam and makes every possible effort to achieve peace and security through implementing the national reconciliation policy and the Geneva accords.

In expressing support for these government measures, in particular the good will of Esteemed Najibullah toward the realization of national peace in Afghanistan as well as the effective and practical measures that have been and are being accomplished in implementing the Geneva accords, the YAR guest added: I will emphasize that the ulema and clergy of Islamic countries should come to Afghanistan and see for themselves.

Hikmatyar Predicts Kabul To Fall Within 7 Months

WA0707151288 Paris AFP in English 2314 GMT 6 Jul 88

Islamabad, July 6 (AFP)—Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of a main Afghan resistance group, on Wednesday rejected United Nations envoy Diego Cordovez's current mission as futile and said Kabul will fall within seven months.

The Hezb-e Eslami leader's remarks came as a car bomb exploded in central Kabul and rockets hit the city, killing 13 people and injuring 32, Radio Kabul reported, blaming rebel guerrillas for the attacks. Diplomats said the attacks could be the work of communist opponents of Afghan President Najibullah.

Mr. Hikmatyar said: "I am confident the regime in Kabul will collapse before the Soviet troops pull out completely," the Hezb-e Eslami leader told a news conference here.

Under the terms of the Geneva accord negotiated by Mr. Cordovez and signed in April by Islamabad and Kabul, Soviet forces are to withdraw by mid-February.

"The Geneva accord has failed," Mr. Hikmatyar said, adding that it could not be implemented to end the war or arrange the return of refugees, who were pouring into Pakistan even after it was signed.

Mr. Hikmatyar described Mr. Cordovez's idea of convening a traditional assembly of tribal chiefs to help establish a new coalition government as "practically impossible, besides being obsolete".

He said the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance had unanimously decided not to meet Mr. Cordovez, who held talks in the Afghan capital on Wednesday, Radio Kabul said.

"Mr. Cordovez should have involved mujahidin in the initial stages of the Afghan parleys he conducted in Geneva," the Hezb-e Eslami chief said in an apparent reference to the envoy's attempt to negotiate the issue of a broad-based Kabul government with all Afghan factions.

Mr. Hikmatyar said the alliance had decided that elections will be held using proportional representation. All Afghan parties would participate, except for Kabul's governing People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

After assuming power, the mujahidin government would hold more polls six months after the Soviet military withdrawal, he said.

Mr. Hikmatyar said the mujahidin's military solution was "today much better than in the past 10 years".

He said he had returned to Pakistan Tuesday after leading a successful assault by about 500 mujahidin from all seven parties on Mohammed Agha, a strategically located town in Afghanistan's Lowgar Province, near Kabul.

He said he intercepted a radio message from the town's Afghan commander to Army Chief General Shahnawaz Tanay frantically calling for reinforcements.

But Gen. Tanay failed to respond and the troops fled in two helicopters and two trucks, Mr. Hikmatyar said, adding the town remained under rebel control.

India

President Leaves on Visit to USSR, Mongolia

BK0607045388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The president, Mr Venkataraman, has left New Delhi for the Soviet Union and Mongolia on an 11-day official visit to these countries. The vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; three defense chiefs, union ministers, and others were present at the airport to see him off.

Mr Venkataraman will be the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the year-long Festival of India in the USSR. He will also unveil a monument of Mahatama Gandhi in Moscow.

Mr Venkataraman, who is visiting the USSR for the first time as president, will have talks with the Soviet president, Mr Gromyko, and the general secretary, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. The president is accompanied by a high-level delegation which includes two ministers of state, Mr Narayanan and Mr Sahi, and the foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon.

Akali Dal Leader Killed; 5 'Terrorists' Arrested

BK0707030988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, a senior Unified Akali Dal leader and former MLA [member of the Legislative Assembly], Mr Mohinder Singh Sarupwali, has been shot dead by terrorists.

According to an official spokesman the victim was sleeping in his house in Sarupwali village near Batala in Gurdaspur District at the time of the attack late last night.

The police have nabbed five suspected terrorists and their harborers. Three terrorists were arrested in the subdivisional town of Ajnala in Amritsar District while planning to commit a bank dacoity.

Two others were caught at Patran village near Patiala. According to police they confessed their involvement in a number of crimes in the area.

Ordinance Promulgated To Combat Drug Trafficking

BK0507130388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] The president has promulgated an ordinance providing for preventive detention in certain cases for combating illicit traffic in narcotic drugs. It comes into force immediately.

The ordinance empowers specified central or state government officials to issue a detention order. The detention under the ordinance will be for a period of 1 or 2 years depending on the area of operation of the drug trafficker.

More on Anti-Narcotics Law

BK0507145388 Hong Kong AFP in English 1325 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] New Delhi, July 5 (AFP)—Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman has promulgated a tough anti-narcotics ordinance empowering the government to detain suspected drug traffickers without proof, officials said here tuesday.

The Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Ordinance (NDPS), was issued on Monday and announced Tuesday—just after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government unveiled a 14-point action-plan aimed at curbing drug abuse.

The new preventive detention ordinance empowers federal and state governments to detain people suspected of funding or sheltering drug traffickers and those engaged in illegal cultivation of opium, hashish or any other drug, the officials quoted a presidential communique as saying.

It also empowers the administration to detain those suspected of smuggling narcotics into or out of India, they added.

They said a suspected peddler could be detained under the ordinance for periods ranging from one to two years but added the ordinance has not been extended to the territory of the northern Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Only top government officers have been sanctioned to issue detention orders under the new ordinance as a safety device to prevent its misuse by police or anti-narcotics agents.

Legal experts here said the ordinance better arms the government to tackle international drug syndicates which could not be broken previously because of lack of solid evidence.

In November 1985 the Indian Government introduced its first tough law to tackle an increase in drug trafficking, and officials said the new ordinance would become law once passed by Parliament.

A government spokesman on Monday said anti-narcotics measures had already dramatically reduced India's share in drug smuggling to Europe and Britain.

In the first six months of this year federal agents seized 1,707 kilograms (3,755 pounds) of heroin, while last year seizures totalled 2,747 kilograms (6,040 pounds).

Iran

Further Reports, Reaction on Downed Airliner

Flights to Dubayy Resumed

NC0607141288 Paris AFP in English 1402 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Manama, July 6 (AFP)—Iran Air resumed flights to Dubayy in the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday after a three-day break following the destruction of an Iranian Airbus-300 by the U.S. Navy, aviation sources said in Dubayy.

They said an Iran Air plane coming from Shiraz in southern Iran landed in Dubayy just before noon and took off on a return flight an hour later.

The company suspended the connection with Dubayy after the cruiser USS Vincennes on Sunday shot down the airbus on a routine flight from the southern Iranian port of Bandar 'Abbas, with loss of all 290 people aboard.

The U.S. Defense Department has said the Vincennes mistook the Airbus for a hostile F-14 fighter in the midst of a naval clash with Iranian forces.

Evidence of 'Deliberate Act'

LD0607170788 Tehran IRNA in English 1652 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormuzgan Prov., July 6, IRNA—Some 50 foreign and domestic reporters and photographers, who arrived here today, were taken out to the sea to inspect the site of crash—26.43 degrees north, 56.3 degrees east—of the Iranian passenger plane missiled down in an unmanly manner by the U.S. Navy last Sunday.

Later, the reporters and cameramen also visited a morgue where they filed reports and took photographs of the mutilated bodies of victims, so far retrieved from Persian Gulf waters.

An Iran Air Airbus A-300 on a regular flight to Dubayy from here was missiled down by the cruiser 'USS Vincennes' Sunday morning, killing all 290 passengers and crew aboard, including 66 under 12-year-old children and 38 foreigners of various nationalities.

Initially Washington claimed of shooting down a jet-fighter, but in the wake of firm evidence, hastily revised its statement saying that the blip on the Vincennes' radars was unclear and the object seemed to be descending at a great speed. Still later it contradicted itself again by claiming that flight 655 had strayed from its course and appeared hostile.

But, the site of the aircraft's explosion, coupled with evidence from aviation experts that the routine Iran Air flight was well within the international air traffic corridor S-59, nailed all U.S. lies, lending credence that it was a deliberate act by the USS Vincennes which already has a dark record of U.S. state terrorism.

It is interesting to note that the U.S. carrier [as received] had taken up position right underneath the course of the flight 24 hours before the incident and moreover the Captain General George Crist is on record of saying that he was fishing for an excuse to provoke Iran.

Facts are now gradually beginning to emerge with and quite interesting another frigate the USS 'Sides' which was stationed nearby has confirmed that it picked up the

signals of a civilian airliner, which radars showed to be in a climbing position having taken off from Bandar-e 'Abbas a few minutes earlier. [sentence as received]

The criminal U.S. downing of Iran Air flight 655 has prompted worldwide outcry with many heads of state and ranking officials from throughout the world pouring scorn on Washington.

The reporters from Turkey, Canada, West Germany, Britain, the U.S., Ireland, Japan and Iran also talked to some of the bereaved families of the U.S. crime, the sixth worst aviation tragedy involving colossal loss of life in the world.

Search Continues for Black Box

LD0607192888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Excerpt] A group from experts of the Iranian Continental Shelf Oil Company have started extensive searches, using electronic equipment, in order to find the black box belonging to the downed Iranian Airbus.

Khamene'i: Issue 'Not Finished'

LD0607122988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Central News Unit correspondent's report from (Damaghan)]

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i arrived this morning in (Damaghan) to a warm welcome from the people in order to take part in the great maneuvers of the people of (Damaghan) and the mobilization members of Semnan Province in support of the very important statement of the Supreme War Support Council on the need for the most extensive participation of the fighting forces on the battlefronts and to express readiness to be on the battlefields to confront U.S. aggression, and also to meet with the esteemed families of the martyrs.

On his arrival in (Damaghan) Mr Khamene'i told reporters with reference to the recent U.S. crime in the Persian Gulf: As a result of the crime committed by the hegemonist United States a major effort of the Iranian people's struggle against U.S. bullying was organized. Our approach toward this matter will be a total engagement against this very harsh, disastrous and savage U.S. action.

Then amid a warm welcome of the people who had lined the streets the president left for the sports stadium. In a glorious gathering of the people of (Damaghan) there, the president made a speech referring to the recent events in the Persian Gulf, especially the U.S. crime of martyring approximately 300 defenseless people.

He said: The U.S. warships' downing of an airliner in the Persian Gulf is not only due to an ordinary hostile attitude, rather, it is a crime. It is their bullying nature which enables the United States to down a defenseless, nonhostile airliner in open international air space. Islam cannot compromise with such a bullying and harsh attitude that ignores all Islamic and human principles.

The chairman of the Supreme War Support Council added: It is clear that the hostility of the Americans, especially of their ruling circles, is very deep. All their efforts are aimed at destroying the Islamic order if possible, and if not, then at least at weakening it. However, our nation has proved that it stands on its own feet. A nation which is so steadfast and so resilient will not submit to any domineering power. Consequently the powers will remove themselves.

Referring to the policies of the revolution which have been clarified by the leader, Mr Khamene'i said: We will not give in to the force of any bully. So the world powers that hope that by exerting pressure on Iran they can force the Islamic Republic to submit are very mistaken. The enemies of Islam should know that the Iranian nation will respond to any blow with a more crushing blow at an appropriate time.

The president added: Here I announce to those who have declared that the issue of the airliner's downing in the Persian Gulf is finished that in our view not only is this issue not finished, it is only the start of the affair. In fact, a nation has been made the target of aggression and this nation is entitled to give an appropriate response to that disaster.

As regards the war imposed by Iraq on Iran, Mr Khamene'i said: In this connection the Islamic Republic has a very clear policy and a very strong argument, and the world has also accepted our argument. Therefore, so long as the aggressor is not punished and the aggression is not condemned, and so long as a powerful hand does not press the throat of the tyrant and the aggressor, not only will the aggression not end but, on the contrary, the aggressor will be encouraged.

He added: The Iranian nation has proved it is a steadfast and brave nation that has the capability to respond to the enemy's aggression.

In conclusion, Mr Khamene'i called on the people to maintain appropriate support behind the lines so that the battlefields may remain at full strength. In this connection he asked all strata of society, including members of the clergy, government employees, farmers, workers, laborers, officials, and young people to work diligently and to strictly refrain from any differences in the strong ranks of the nation.

Musavi Links Attack With 'Plot'

LD0607174988 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, referring to last Sunday's unmanly U.S. downing of the Iran Air Airbus A-300 over the Persian Gulf,

noted there is documented evidence of a joint plot being hatched against Islamic Iran by Washington and its criminal accomplice, the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

Musavi, speaking during a cabinet session here Wednesday said, although the U.S. crime will not go unanswered, proper reaction by all peace loving people, international organizations and the world's mass media towards Washington's unmanly attack would be effective in preventing the repetition of such tragedies.

Iran Air Flight 655 bound for Dubayy from Bandar-e 'Abbas with 290 passengers and crew on board, including 66 under 12-year old children and 38 foreigners of various nationalities was split in midair and crashed into Persian Gulf waters after being hit by two surface-to-air missiles from the warship "USS Vincennes". There were no survivors and so far mutilated bodies of 200 victims have been retrieved from the water.

Larijani: U.S. Warning Unheeded

LD0607201488 Kuwait KUNA in English 1920 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Vienna, July 6 (KUNA)—A senior Iranian official admitted here that the pilot of the Iranian airliner shot down by the United States in the Gulf did not pay attention to warnings by American warships.

In an interview with an Austrian newspaper, KURIER, to be published Thursday, deputy foreign minister of Iran Mohammad Javad Larijani said "we all know that the captain of a plane does not listen to wireless communications during the first ten minutes as he is busy with many things in the cockpit."

Larijani's acknowledgement is the first soft Iranian statement taking the blame off the American Administration for the shooting down of the civilian aircraft with 290 people on board.

Despite his reconciliatory remark, Larijani lashed out at the U.S., saying that he considers the aggression an attack on Iran and the region and that his country would take appropriate self-defense retaliatory measures."

The Iranian official concluded late today a three-day visit to Austria where he held talks with senior officials including President Kurt Waldheim.

'No Sense' in Retaliation

AU0707083688 Vienna KURIER in German 7 Jul 88 p 5

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Larijani by H. Nussbaumer in Vienna; date not given: "'Retaliation Does Not Make Any Sense to Me'"]

[Text] Nussbaumer: After the downing of the Iran Air plane: Do you aspire to international condemnation of the United States or retaliation?

Larijani: Retaliation does not make any sense to me as a politician. I want an appropriate answer. If it can only be a diplomatic one—all the better. However, it is understandable that the people talk of revenge. For it is like this: The downing was an aggression against us that has to be answered by retaliation measures. But it also constituted a threat to the safety of the region and civil aviation; this requires diplomatic answers.

Nussbaumer: But Iran opened fired on U.S. ships last Sunday [3 July]....

Larijani: But this was no beginning, we are right in the middle of it. The United Stated allegedly came to protect free navigation, but not us. To stabilize the security of the region, but not ours.

Nussbaumer: Only someone who believes that the opponent is capable of anything, would also risk shooting at civilian planes. How can these hostile images be diminished?

Larijani: Quite simply: After all, we Persians do not claim the Gulf of Mexico. We only want to be left alone. We have made mistakes but we are a government for our own people and owe our existence to no one else. But the United States has been hysterical from the beginning and has regarded our revolution as a disaster for its interests. Are we to blame for this? Maybe something is wrong with the U.S. interests.

Nussbaumer: Do you accept that the United States did not deliberately down a civilian plane?

Larijani: No, certainly not. I do not accuse the ship's commander; he has been trained in the wrong way. The problem lies in Washington. Today they say the plane was 7 km off the air route—ask a pilot what 7 km mean in aviation. Nothing at all. They say the pilot did not heed the warning. Everybody knows that a pilot does not listen to radio messages during the first 10 minutes as he has enough other things to do on board. It is really crazy to try to justify it in this way. Our Airbus flew low and could be seen with the unaided eye.

Nussbaumer: Could the downing accelerate the peace process?

Larijani: This would be possible if mediation by the UN secretary general, which is blocked by the United States and Iraq, were again supported. I have much sympathy for his attempt. And: The United States has to leave the Gulf for home. Anything that favors one side prolongs the war by military means and does not lead to peace by diplomatic means.

Nussbaumer: How is Khomeyni?

Larijani: He feels well. But Iran's fate no longer depends on the life of the Imam. It is true that nobody in the country can fill his shoes. But his successor Montazeri is able to lead Iran, through war and peace. For this war, too, will come to an end.

Describes Protective Measures

AU0707102988 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 7 Jul 88 p 2

[Gerhard Bitzan report: "Washington Is Fully Responsible"]

[Text] In a talk with DIE PRESSE, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Larijani stressed the United States' full responsibility for the downing of the Iranian civilian plane on Sunday [3 July]. He defended Tehran's version that the plane was on a civilian air route. Finally he announced several measures by which Iran will protect itself against "future aggressions."

"Simply because of the fact that the U.S. Navy is in the Gulf without justification and that it has a badly trained and malicious staff, the U.S. Government is to be held responsible for the downing of IR [Iran Air] 665," Larijani said. Irrespective of what was going on in the mind of the commander of the "Vincennes", the U.S. Government has to be called to account.

In spite of this strong criticism of the United States, Larijani responded comparatively mildly to the question about "retaliation measures." The concept of revenge comes from the terminology and the paranoia of the United States, he said. "They, and not we, have attacked our facilities." Now the Americans are afraid of the peoples of the world, not only of the Muslims.

Regarding concrete measures, Larijani announced that defenses will be built up in the country and the Iranians will be increasingly called to arms. "We are afraid. If the United States is capable of downing an Airbus, they are also capable of attacking our cities tomorrow."

With regard to international measures, Iran will contact all organizations responsible for aviation and international security. Then they will have to prepare a report on the incident and take measures to prevent such events in the future, he said.

Larijani was in Austria until Wednesday [6 July] for a 3-day visit which focused on the intensification of economic relations. He held productive talks with Economics Minister Graf, he stated. He has also had a "concrete and friendly talk" with Foreign Minister Mock. Shortly before his departure, Larijani was received by President Waldheim.

Incidentally, Larijani also stated that, in relation to his age, revolutionary leader Khomeyni is well. He himself had seen him only 2 weeks ago.

Jalali Condolences to Ziaul Haq

LD0607213388 Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali in a message to Pakistan's president and Minister of Defense General Mohammad Ziaul Haq consoled him on the martyrdom of several Pakistani Muslims, including the military attache to Tehran, who were aboard the U.S. downed Iran Air Flight No. 655 last Sunday.

In his message, Jalali called for condemnation of the U.S. anti-human act, messures to prevent the repetition of such crimes, and guaranteeing the safety of the international air traffic lanes.

If the international bodies do not properly react against such brutal crimes, criminals like the U.S. will be emboldened to disturb international security, cautioned Jalali.

Pakistan's naval and air attache at its embassy in Tehran Captain Munir Arshad [name as received] and his family lost their lives in the unmanly U.S. attack on the Iranian passenger plane over the Persian Gulf, Sunday.

There were no survivors among the 290 passengers and crew aboard the airbus A-300, which while on its 5 times a week routine flight from Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy, was hit by two missiles fired from the battleship "USS Vincennes" and exploded in mid-air.

Montazeri Receives Condolences

LD0607132488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, following the U.S. attack on the airliner of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) and the martyrdom of 290 innocent people, Dr David Mann, chairman of the Synod and Council of Australia's churches, met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

During this meeting, the chairman of Australia's church synod expressed his sympathy for the bereaved families of this tragedy, and said: After hearing the news of this tragedy I could not get to sleep, and I cannot interpret this crime in any way other than the aggression and barbarism of the U.S. Government.

He stressed: I have ordered my religious establishment in Australia from here to formally condemn this tragedy and its perpetrator—the U.S. Government.

According to this report, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri made a speech thanking him for the condolences, and graciously said: Under the former regime, which was affiliated with colonialism, our country's destiny was being decided in the White House and other such places. But our nation staged a revolution under the leadership of the imam of the ummah in order to take charge of its

own destiny. After the victory of the revolution, the war was imposed on us and [our enemies] have continued making new troubles and bereavement for us daily.

The deputy leader graciously pointed out: All the crimes and tyranny which are committed against our nation are committed just because we have staged a revolution and have said: We wish to be independent.

Referring to a Koranic interpretation on the reason for friendship between Christianity and Islam, his eminence graciously pointed out: The Koran mentions that the reason for their friendship is that they are both free from arrogance. This makes it clear that the European governments and the United States, because of their arrogant mentality and attitude in the world, have no belief and no links with Christianity at all and only hypocritically talk about His Holiness Christ.

Referring to the imposed war, the crimes of Saddam and Israel, the U.S. Government's crime in the Persian Gulf and the U.S. support for Saddam and Israel, his eminence asked the archbishop of Australian Armenians [as heard] to perform his religious and human duty by exposing this crime to his nation and supporters in order to exonerate Christianity and His Holiness Christ from the crimes committed in the world in His name.

Envoy to UAE Comments

LD0407220388 Tehran IRNA in English 2035 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right to retaliate against the U.S. crime, warned Iranian Ambassador to the UAE Hojjat ol Eslam Mostafa Haeri-Fumani

The Iranian envoy was addressing a press conference in Abu Dhabi today in the wake of Sunday morning's U.S. missile attack on Iran Air flight No 655 enroute to Dubayy from Bandar-e 'Abbas. All 290 passengers aboard the ill-fated airbus A-300 including several UAE citizens were killed.

"I believe the U.S. never tells the facts to its people", said Fumani calling on mediamen that "you reporters" are dutybound to inform the world public opinion of these gruesome facts.

Asked whether the unmanly U.S. attack would lead to further tension in the region, the ambassador only replied that the Islamic Republic reserves the right of retaliation against the U.S. crime.

Elsewhere he said, Iran believes regional countries should cooperate with each other for achievement of a real security and stability in the region and pointed out that foreign forces can do nothing but escalate tension.

On Iran's policy towards regional states following the Airbus catastrophe, Fumani said Tehran considers littoral countries responsible for maintaining Persian Gulf security. It is now obvious for any one that the U.S. is the main stumbling block to peace in the region, he added.

"Only littoral states can ensure regional security and not the NATO forces which have imposed themselves upon us," he concluded.

Envoy to Nicaragua Comments

PA0507141788 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1256 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Interview with Dr Reza Haj Zargar-Bashi, ambassador to Nicaragua, by an unidentified reporter; date, place not given, recorded—Zargar-Bashi in venacular with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish]

[Text] [Zargar-Bashi] As the Nicaraguan people know, yesterday, Sunday, the U.S. Government attacked a civilian plane. This was a premeditated attack, which resulted in the death of over 290 civilian passengers.

As you know, this criminal act resulted in the death of over 290 passengers, including 66 children under 12 and 9 babies. This action, as well as other actions carried out by the Americans against our countries, unmasks the United States.

Revolutionary peoples must be aware that this act is not the last committed by this Great Satan, the United States. Therefore, we must be prepared and ready to stop any other action they may take.

[Reporter] What will be the international consequences of this U.S. action? Will Iran file a lawsuit at the United Nations or any other organization and demand justice?

[Zargar-Bashi] Under these circumstance, we officially request all international organizations, including the UN Security Council, to condemn this act. Based on this, we have increased the number of our domestic forces. There are many more people who want to go out and fight this common enemy.

Majlis Body Condemns 'Crime'

LD0607130688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The Majlis Defense Commission has issued a statement condemning the recent U.S. crime. The statement says:

The survival of Islam and of the Muslims, and particularly the survival of the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic, depend on a relentless and serious struggle against the sworn enemies of the revolution, particularly the United States and its lackey Saddam, and the presence of the martyr-nurturing ummah on the battlefronts.

According to an IRNA report, the statement referred to his holiness the imam's instructions and stressed that the war is the main issue. It says:

The Majlis Defense Commission has a religious and legal duty to obey the strict commands of the great jurisconsult and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

In accordance with the recent decrees of his holiness the imam, it will not refrain from any effort to give top priority to the war issue. It calls upon the martyr-nurturing and free ummah of Iran to prepare for this issue in practice by joining the front and through resistance to the conspiracies of the revolution's enemies.

Security Council Meeting Sought

LD0607130188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Report from London by correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has officially asked the UN Security Council to convene a session to investigate the U.S. crime of its missile attack on the airliner of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mohammad Ja'far Mahalati, UN representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, met with the president of the Security Council.

First he gave details of the disaster, saying: The existing evidence shows that this U.S. attack was a premeditated and systematic attack. The appropriate documents have been registered at the United Nations.

In response the Security Council president expressed his intense regrets regarding this catastrophe and passed on his condolences to the Iranian nation and government. He welcomed the Iranian request to convene a Security Council meeting.

Diplomatic sources at the United Nations predict that the Security Council session will probably be held at the beginning of next week following preliminary consultations.

On the eve of the Security Council meeting it now seems that propaganda and political isolation are seriously threatening the White House. Washington's diplomatic and propaganda vulnerability has reached its peak. Many political and diplomatic circles now believe that it is the first time in recent U.S. history that U.S. propaganda vulnerability vis-a-vis a Third World country has reached its peak, and that the Islamic Republic of Iran is now able to reveal the true face of the White House rulers by holding the initiative and through extensive maneuverability.

UN Condemnation 'Essential'

LD0607210388 Tehran IRNA in English 2052 GMT 6 Jul 88

["Deputy FM Calls Security Council Condemnation of U.S. Essential for Its Credibility"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, July 6, IRNA—Washington's opposition to a Security Council resolution condemning the downing of an Iranian passenger plane by the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf could further damage the United Nations' reputation and threaten all traffic security, Iran warned.

"If Washington vetoes such a resolution it would not only show its utter weakness in front of world public opinion but would destroy the remaining credibility of the Third World towards the United Nations," Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani said.

The Security Council announced Wednesday that it would hold a meeting next Tuesday at Iran's request to discuss Sunday's air tragedy which caused the deaths of 290 people.

Dr Larijani was speaking after his meeting in Geneva with the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, whom, he said, condemned the downing of the plane and said responsibility for the action should be clarified.

The UN has clear responsibilities against Washington according to its charter, Dr Larijani stressed, and any move by the U.S. to block a condemnatory resolution would further convince the people of the world that they cannot turn to the UN to achieve their rights.

He said a U.S. veto "would also mean that the (Persian Gulf) region would in the future face more confontation and more crimes by the Americans."

The deputy foreign minister in charge of European and American affairs told IRNA in a telephone interview that the condemnation of the U.S. was reasonable and necessary to ensure the safety of commercial air traffic in the Persian Gulf.

He made it clear to De Cuellar that Iran would use every available channel to defend its rights in this regard but also hopes and expects that the UN will act according to its responsibilities.

Asked whether he expected Britain to follow the U.S. in blocking a security Council resolution critical of Washington's action, he said: "Britain must know that it is in the interest of no civilized country when air routes are so vulnerable to military aggression."

He reaffirmed Iran's demand for the withdrawal off all foreign forces from the Persian Gulf.

"The American Navy's excuse for coming to the Persian Gulf was to protect shipping in the region but they have not only failed to accomplish that aim but also destroyed the safety of (civilian) air routes."

During the meeting both sides also discussed issues related to the implementation of Resolution 598 which calls for a cease fire between Iran and Iraq.

"Iraq has not accepted the secretary general's plan on setting up a committee (to investigate the origin of the war) because Iraqi is looking for an escape way while Iran is saying that the resolution must pave the way for justice," Larijani said.

'More Than Shameful Accident'

LD0607173188 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 6 Jul 88

[U.S. Emerging Guilty of Airbus Massacre by Own Contradictions"—IRNA headline; all quotation marks as received]

[Text] London, July 5, IRNA—The attempted U.S. cover-up of its guilt in downing an Iranian passenger airliner is muddled to such an extent by the Reagan administration, that it clearly suggests the missile attack may have been more than a shameful accident.

Its latest ploy in trying to pass the blame onto Iran was to allege that the A-300 Airbus was using military and civilian codings, but this has not been coordinated by other vessels of the U.S. fleet which have sent out contradictory messages.

The cruiser USS Vincennes, responsible for downing Flight 655, maintained it had picked up dual electronic signals, but according to a Pentagon spokesman, another frigate the USS 'Sides' stationed nearby disputed this, and said it picked up only routine civilian signals from the Iranian plane.

The previous Washington claim it was unable to identify the plane that was on a routine scheduled flight, in a civilian air corridor, flying over Iranian territorial waters and inside Iranian airspace was dispelled by evidence from the USSR 'Sides'.

Civilian aviation officias in Dubayy have already refuted earlier attempted excuses that the airbus was descending, saying it had just been given authorisation to climb, and the USSR Sides further bore out that the plane was actually ascending.

THE NEW YORK TIMES Wednesday listed what it saw as seven "critical" questions which have yet to be answered about the worst missile attack on an airliner ever that killed all 290 passengers and crew on board.

It suggested the Vincennes was stationed right under the normal flight path of Airbus less than 24 hours before it attacked the plane, saying if the aircraft had been more closer to its routine course it would have been even closer to the cruiser and questioned "how does this square with the Pentagon explanation."

The paper further asked what procedures the U.S. used to keep track of civilian flights, and was not the captain of the Vincennes, with reputably the world's most advanced radar systems, not able to confirm basic information regarding the A-300 that is contained in commercial airline guides.

The cruiser has a proven track record in U.S. state terrorist activities against Libya before it was assigned to the Persian Gulf, where it has already been involved in a skirmish with civilian aircraft, prior to its last Sunday's unmanly downing of the Iranian Airbus.

THE WASHINGTON POST correspondent in Dubayy disclosed the Vincennes on June 8 nearly caused a disastrous collision when it ordered a jumbo jet to alter course as it approached Dubayy airport tht would have sent it into the path of an airliner taking off from Al-Shariqah.

The London GUARDIAN believed that the previous involvement by the cruiser cast "new doubts" over the U.S. explanation of why the Iranian Airbus was shot down.

Commentary on 'Horrific Crime'

NC0507071388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. The Islamic Republic of Iran has started to undertake all-encompassing diplomatic efforts with regard to the criminal attack perpetrated by the United States against an Iranian passenger plane.

Our Prime Minister has asked the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Islamic Guidance to place the documents on this horrific crime at the disposal of world public opinion as soon as possible.

In another positive step, the Islamic Republic's civil aviation authority has invited foreign correspondents to travel to Bandar 'Abbas to prepare a report on the repercussions of the U.S. crime. Our Foreign Ministry has issued a strongly worded note stating that the responsibility for the consequences of this crime rests on U.S. shoulders.

In a letter to the UN secretary general, Mr Velayati called on the secretary general to immediately send a delegation of experts to the region to study the U.S. criminal attack on the passenger plane.

The tragic incident also has been widely reported in the international arena. Various governments, organizations, parties, and international political-religious personalities have expressed their regrets on this tragedy and their sympathies toward the Muslim Iranian nation.

The heart-rending and criminal missile attack on the Iranian passenger plane has been described as a rare tragedy that cannot be justified in any way. After repeated refutations, the U.S. Government finally oficially confessed that it had perpetrated the crime. It is now confused as to how it can justify this act, realizing that it is incapable of justifying this mistake by its forces in the Persian Gulf.

The warship that attacked the Iranian passenger plane with its missiles and martyred the 290 passengers on board is equipped with the most modern electronic and radar equipment. According to the Americans themselves, it is equipped with unprecedented and ultramodern systems. An error by such a warship cannot be justified, and the possibility that the passenger plane was mistakenly taken for a jet fighter is almost nonexistent.

All these increase the possibility that this crime was perpetrated on purpose, especially because the United States had intensified its suspicious intrigues in the Persian Gulf in the days immediately preceding this incident. Statements by U.S. war officials on the threat of Silkworm missiles and the excuses that followed this all revealed a new type of U.S. recalcitrance in the region.

While fanning the flames of crisis in the Persian Gulf, the Americans attacked several Iranian gunboats on the day of the incident and further exacerbated the situation. Finally, their crimes culminated with the downing of the passenger plane.

Actually, what took shape as a horrific tragedy was the continuation of a new policy, the implementation of which the Reagan administration recently ordered. It is a specific proof of the further intensification of the intervention by U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf. This has revealed the further dangers and damages that now threaten the Muslim Iranian nation and the regional countries.

The Persian Gulf crisis started with the adventurism by Iraq's Aflaqite regime in attacking cargo ships and tankers. It was further exacerbated because of the lack of policy and the dependence of some of the countries in the southern Persian Gulf, culminating with the U.S. military expedition to the Gulf which apparently took place at the invitation of the Kuwaiti regime.

The outcome of this situation was the continuous killing of more people, and specifically dozens of sailors and captains of different nationalities—both mistakenly and on purpose—in the Persian Gulf waters, and the wounding of hundreds of others.

The number of victims, including even Americans and Europeans, of this adventurism and rancour by Iraq, the United States, and reaction, increased unlimitedly. Despite these outcomes, and because of the Reagan administration's insistence on pursuing an aggressive policy as well as the Security Council's inactivity, this crude situation continues and has deepened even further.

The worst possible outcome is the fact that innocent children, women, and men were sacrificed because of U.S. recalcitrance in the Persian Gulf—something which has plunged our country into mourning.

The heart-rending pictures of the victims of this incident shown during the newscast of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran showed the extent of the U.S. rancour and hostility toward the Muslim Iranian nation. Meanwhile, this heart-rending tragedy should become a motive for the international organizations and forums to condemn U.S. aggressions and to demand an end to U.S. intervention in the region.

The American people also should ask their President on what basis he is acting as their representative in a region thousands of kilometers from U.S. territory and committing such crimes, which plunge the region into one tragedy after another.

Meanwhile, the criminal U.S. act is a warning to the Muslim peoples of the region and of Iran and shows the enemies' seriousness in inflicting blows on Islam and on the Islamic revolution.

This demands their alertness at this sensitive juncture. Undoubtedly, the Muslim people of our country will preserve their brave spirit and continue their struggles against hostilities. As in the past, they will reply to the U.S. deceits with their merciless resistance and struggle.

'Criminal,' 'Inhuman' Act

NC0707090588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary: "The Mission of the Ultramodern 'Vincennes'"]

[Text] When the ultramodern 9,400-ton "USS Vincennes" arrived in the Persian Gulf on 29 May after a 21,000-km journey from California, Capitain Will Rogers—the commander of this most sophisticated U.S. warship—told correspondents at a news conference:

I believe that this warship will grant the tactical commanders in the Persian Gulf the opportunity to adopt any measure they deem suitable. The commander of this warship, which is equipped with an extremely powerful radar that is linked with a computer to missile launchers,

also said: The "Vincennes" will always be on alert. However, I do not wish to imply that we are looking to start a major conflict in the region. This is not our objective at all.

Even though on that day the commander of the sophisticated "Vincennes" ruled out the commencement by the United States of a conflict in the Persian Gulf, no one believed in the sincerity or correctness of his remarks. And (?now), more than ever before, the extent of (?truth) and the precise meaning behind his remarks have been clarified.

On Sunday morning, 1 month after it arrived in the Persian Gulf, the ultramodern warship downed the passenger plane with modern missiles linked to a computerized radar. It thus resorted to a most tragic method to martyr 290 women, men, and children.

With this criminal and inhuman act, the United States actually replied to correspondents, who had asked, after this warship had arrived in the Persian gulf, why this warship—intended for extensive deployment in vast oceans—had been assigned to the Persian Gulf?

However, this bloody answer did not surprise those who are very well acquainted with the United States and its puppets—and especially the Iraqi regime. Despite the efforts and the contradictory and helpless remarks made in a bid to hide the truth behind the issue over the past few days, this act was not something out of the ordinary.

This is because the arrival of the "Vincennes," as well as the extensive dispatch of warships and forces to the Persian Gulf during the past year, have taken place in order to support Saddam's bloodthirsty regime.

The act of supporting such a regime can only mean active participation in all the massacres and extensive bloodshed perpetrated by that Zionist regime.

Basically, were it not for the United States' extensive support and encouragement for the Iraqi regime, a war may never have started. Even if the Zionist regime were warmongering in nature—which it is—it would not have been able to continue its aggression until now without that support.

Therefore, on the basis of clear facts that speak of various supports by the United States for Saddam's bloodthirsty regime, one cannot consider this so-called superpower to be unconnected with all of the bloodshed among the innocent peoples of Iraq and Iran. It is because of this that the downing by U.S. forces of a passenger plane with 290 people on board is considered neither unnatural nor surprising.

As we have said, while referring to the warship's complicated systems, its commander disclosed that the modern combat installations give the tactical commanders the opportunity to adopt any measure deemed suitable. How can one know for certain whether, under the present situation and in continuation of the unending support for the Iraqi regime, the tactical commanders did not consider the downing of a passenger plane a suitable method?

Actually, it has been 2-3 months now since the Persian Gulf has been witnessing suspicious shuttle missions by U.S. officials and diplomats. With each movement, the Iraqi regime is further emboldened to continue its aggressions.

It is interesting to note that each fresh overture by Iraq takes place exactly at the time when a U.S. official either visits or departs from Baghdad. If we ignore the fact that Iraq's name was wiped off the list of countries that support terrorism and also ignore the reestablishment of its relations with the United States and its receipt of a $1-billion loan and sophisticated military materiel from the United States, can we also ignore America's continuing support for the Iraqi regime in the Persian Gulf? Can U.S. officials deny to international circles their efforts to support the Iraqi regime?

The Halabajah incident and the silence observed by international forums on this was the biggest and clearest proof that some other countries in addition to Iraq are directly involved in the massacre of the Iraqi people. Moreover, generally speaking, encouraging any kind of aggression against Islamic Iran and ignoring our definite right of self-defense clearly show the nature and the true objectives of the Iraqi regime's mentors.

At a time when we are in a defensive situation, our passenger plane is shot down over the Persian Gulf—an area which is our home—by missiles that have been brought to this area to support the Zionist regime and possibly to be used according to certain programs—programs which can only be assessed within the context of vengeance against a revolutionary nation.

However, this shows that the United States lacks the weapon that, by the hands of the Iraqi regime, can destroy revolutionary Islam or prevent the Muslim people from continuing on their path.

This fact dictates that, in addition to bearing our self-defense in mind, we also should resort to basic steps to bring about the downfall of the Ba'thist regime, which is America's major base in the Persian Gulf, so that the United States will lose all hope connected with its presence in the Persian Gulf.

U.S. Withdrawal From Gulf Urged

LD0607153888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1119 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Station commentary: "The Necessity of the Withdrawal of Foreign Navies From the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] Following the downing of an Iranian passenger plane by the U.S. Navy, fear has arisen that such

incidents will be repeated in the future, and that the airspace over the Persian Gulf, which is busy with the passenger planes of several countries and airlines, will be facing more tragedies.

It is now revealed that the U.S. cruiser "Vincennes," which hit the Iranian passenger plane with two missiles and savagely martyred 298 people, [figure as heard] had previously endangered the lives of people by tracking civilian aircraft.

The staff at the Abu Dhabi control tower had earlier accused this U.S. naval ship of nearly causing an air accident. This incident, which took place about a month ago, brought a reaction from the UAE Government, and a protest was delivered to the U.S. Embassy in Abu Dhabi.

THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper, which has revealed this news, adds that the "Vincennes," which arrived in the Persian Gulf on 20 May, has repeatedly caused disruption in the corridors of commercial aircraft and to helicopters carrying personnel working on oil platforms.

The revelation of this matter by THE WASHINGTON POST, which is generally dependent on the ruling faction of the Reagan government, more than anything else, is a reactive response by the White House to the attack on the Iranian passenger aircraft.

On the other hand, by putting all the blame on the "Vincennes," and specifically her captain, Reagan tries to oppose the view that the presence of foreign naval forces in the Persian Gulf has caused unpredictable and painful incidents.

But at the same time, the revelation of this matter will cause anxiety and worry in the minds of the Muslim people of the region and world public opinion, and demonstrates that the tragedy that occurred for the Iranian aircraft and caused the martydom of 298 people, including women and children, is likely to happen again.

The U.S. naval fleet in the Persian Gulf, while it is scattered and mobile, seeks to change the route of any aircraft flying over the Persian Gulf for its own protection. In a region in which every day hundreds of flights take place, it is probable and predictable that various incidents will occur, whether caused by aircraft being hit by the U.S. naval fleet or by the occurence of air crashes because of the U.S. naval fleet's tracking.

This demonstrates that the presence of the U.S. naval fleet in the Persian Gulf has caused not only the worsening of the crisis at sea, the setting of numerous ships ablaze, the death of many sailors of different nationalities, endangering the interests of the Islamic Republic and the countries of the region, but is threatening the skies of this region as well.

Every day the lives of tens of thousands of people are being threatened in this way. The daily increase of such dangers emphasize the necessity of withdrawing foreign navies, especially U.S. ships, from the Persian Gulf. Currently several countries and international organizations have demanded the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from the region.

The Reagan government, which is on the threshold of the presidential elections, considers the withdrawal of U.S. naval forces from the Persian Gulf as a defeat for the policies of the ruling circles, which will doubtless have adverse effects on the electoral future of the Republicans.

Therefore, Reagan, while stressing the presence of the U.S. naval forces in the Persian Gulf, considers the possibility that following the tragedy of the downing of the Iranian passenger aircraft by the U.S. naval forces, the Islamic Republic might carry out reprisals, such as attacks on U.S. allies in the region like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The expression of such possibilities by the propaganda organs that are associated with the White House tells of Washington's resolve to maintain the tension in the Persian Gulf and even increase its threats in this region. This despite the fact that it is now clear that the presence of foreign forces, especially the U.S. ships, in the Persian Gulf have caused unthinkable dangers for the Muslim people of this region. And the grounds still exist for more bitter and horrifying incidents, such as the attack on the Iranian passenger aircraft and the martyrdom of its 298 passengers, in the future.

New Ambassador Arrives in Paris, Talks to Media

LD0107232688 Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Paris, July 1, IRNA—Newly-appointed Iranian Ambassador to France 'Ali Ahani arrived at Orly Airport Friday morning and was welcomed at the airport by two French Foreign Ministry officials.

In a brief talk with reporters at the airport, Ahani described Tehran-Paris ties as "historical and friendly" and expressed hope that the volume of mutual trade exchanges would increase in a not-too-distant future.

Ahani is the first Iranian ambassador to Paris since the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were at the level of charge d'affaires until the two countries completely severed ties in June 1987.

Tehran and Paris renewed ties at an ambassadorial level after an 11-month break-off in relations last June.

French industrialists hope that the resumption of ties between Tehran and Paris could upgrade the level of bilateral trade exchanges and an Iranian commercial delegation is now in Paris at their invitation.

Meanwhile, French officials have time and again announced their belief that normalization of Tehran-Paris ties would accelerate resolving of financial disputes between the two countries.

The Paris government's refusal to repay its estimated two-billion dollar debts to Iran was considered a major impedient in the way of normalization of its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In November 1986, the Paris government after lengthy talks with Iranian officials repaid Iran 330 million dollars as part of its outstanding debts to Iran.

In 1974, the desposed regime of shah granted a billion dollars in loan to the Atomic Energy Commissary [as received] of France. Political observers now estimate France's total debts to Iran including its overdue interests to be over two billion dollars.

Some French companies which have suffered losses as a result of the Islamic revolution in Iran have claimed damages from Iran.

Velayati, French Ambassador Discuss Relations

NC0507053788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] The new French ambassador in Tehran met with Foreign Minister Mr Velayati yesterday afternoon and tendered a copy of his credentials to him. During this meeting, the French ambassador conveyed his and the French government's sympathies and condolences on the tragedy involving the Iranian passenger plane.

He also stressed the importance of the two countries' relations. The French ambassador expressed happiness over the resumption of relations between France and the Islamic Republic of Iran and called for their expansion. He further expressed the hope that efforts by both sides will remove problems and consolidate relations.

During this meeting, Foreign Minister Mr Velayati referred to the horrific U.S. criminal attack on the Iranian passenger plane. He thanked the French ambassador his and his government's sympathies toward the Iranian nation. Mr Velayati added that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran also wants to expand and consolidate its relations with France.

Compensation Agreement Reached With Britain

LD0607160188 Tehran IRNA in English 1456 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—Britain and Iran have finalized an agreement on compensating each other for the damage inflicted on their respective embassies in Tehran and London, as the first step to remove obstacles in the way of improvement of mutual ties.

According to the agreement, the London government has agreed to fund 1,820,000 pounds sterling for the reconstruction of the Iranian Embassy in London while Iran will pay 120 million rials for repairing the British Embassy in Tehran.

The agreement was made following London's expressing of desire for improvement of ties with Tehran, and statements by Iranian and British officials on the need for normalization of mutual relations.

'Thawing of Relations' Seen

LD0607204988 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 6, IRNA—A compensation agreement between Britain and Iran was finalised Wednesday in the form of an exchange of notes, the Foreign Office has said.

The agreement is for reparations to cover damage sustained to respective diplomatic premises in each other's capitals and was finalised at meeting between Iran's charge d'affaires Mahdi Akhundzadeh [name as received] and head of the British Foreign Ministry's Middle East desk Rob Young.

The settlement involves Britain paying Iran pounds sterlings 1.82 million as compensation for damage to the Iranian Embassy in London, while in return Tehran is to pay 120 million rials to the UK mission.

Additionally the UK is settling a 200,000 pounds claim the local council had outstanding with Iran for safety work carried out after the Iranian Embassy was gutted by S.A.S. [Special Air Services] troops when storming the seized building in 1980.

The agreement finalises one month of negotiations stemming from an original offer from Britain and taken upon the arrival of an Iranian Foreign Ministry delegation in London on June 7.

It removes a long dispute between the two countries and is seen as part of a general thawing of relations that have been blocked for the past year over concern about the mistreatment of Iranian diplomats by London.

A parliamentary delegation returned from Tehran earlier this month calling on the UK Government to alter its hostile attitude towards Islamic Iran as the first step to better relations.

The call received a setback Sunday when Prime Minister Thatcher was seen going out of her way to support an attempted cover-up by the U.S. over its criminal downing of an Iranian Airbus.

Politicians from even her own party have been critical of Thatcher's stance and has caused a parliamentary row with worries that it could damage attempts to improve ties with Tehran.

The provocative U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf, Sunday breached the sacred law of international air traffic security by madly missiling down a regular Iran Air flight bound for Dubayy. The latest American crime martyred all 290 passengers and crew aboard, including 66 children.

UK Report on Ties Cited

LD0107103988 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 1, IRNA—The British Government should drop its mutual antagonism with Iran and move towards establishing better long-term relations, an all-party committee has said.

It further urged London to use all its energies at the United Nations to bring about an effective end to Iraq's war with iran and work with the secretary general in his five-point plan to implement Resolution 598.

The recommendations are the most significant yet calling for a change in Britain's policy in the Persian Gulf, made by the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee after six months of inquiry, and follow similar calls last week from a delegation which visited Iran.

In its report published Thursday, the 11-member committee pointed out that the government had full relations with the Iraqi Regime but virtually no ties with Tehran.

"For political as well as commercial reasons," it said, Britain should be "preparing for restored good relations with Iran," recognizing that Iran is one of the major powers in the region and used to be one of Britain's major export markets.

On the war, the report made reference to the slowness of the United Nations meeting after Iraq invaded Iran in 1980 and then not calling for a withdrawal of forces, as had for example been made against Argentina's invasion of the Falklands in 1982.

The Security Council did not meet again until July 1982, when most Iraqi troops had been driven from Iran, and the members of Parliament felt that this has at least been a factor in Iran's mistrust of the UN.

They recognised that the central theme of policy of almost every member of the Security Council was that "no one wants Iraq to lose" and emphasised the role in place on the shoulders of the secretary general in mediation.

In compiling the 59-page report, evidence had been obtained from British ministers, officials and former diplomats and the committee also visited Persian Gulf states as well as Washington and the UN in New York.

The conclusions however are seen as weak compared with the wealth of material heard urging positive action on the government to alter its stance and had been rushed through to coincide with the current slight thaw in British hostility towards Iran.

It said that the Foreign Office had advised the members not to travel to Tehran on "political and security grounds" and then not to go to Baghdad as it would "give a wrong signal" but noted then that Minister David Mellor went himself to the Iraqi capital.

In its argument for strengthening links with Iran, the committee warned that the "dangers for Britain" of drifting too far out of touch with Iran were "real" and that the lack of information would undermine London's ability in foreign affairs.

Already it was inevitable that first-hand experience of Iran was now "much rarer" among its diplomats and would create problems for Britain in future establishment of ties. To help with the weakness, the Foreign Office was urged to at least review its number of Persian specialists.

Any move towards restoring ties, it clearly warned, should be kept separate from the issue of the release of British hostages in Lebanon but hinted that any improvement in relations could assist solve the issue.

Chairman of the committee David Howell, speaking after the release of the report, said that although restored good relations were highly desirable he was not optimistic that the change would happen straight away.

He listed unease about two Britons currently detained in Tehran for espionage, Iran's treatment of diplomats and business payments outstanding from the deposed Shah as possible obstacles for Britain but chose not spell out Iran's grievances with the UK.

The launching of the inquiry last December stemmed from the failure of the West's gun-boat diplomacy against Iran and led by the U.S. The recommendations are presented to parliament, which may debate them but there is no obligation on the part of the government.

Its prime purpose, it said, was not been to make judgment about the origins of the war but felt the phrase used by the Foreign Office that "Iraq invaded Iran" was "technically correct," even though tensions and border clashes should "not be ignored."

The committee acknowledged that the identification of the aggressor had become a significant factor in trying to end the war and that the Security Council had remained silent about Iraq's war crimes.

One of the most significant developments during its inquiry, it said, was Iraq's chemical massacre at Halabjah, which had been condemned by Britain but regretted that the UN did not specify the villain although it named Iraq in previous years.

The Iraqi use of chemical weapons and its launching of a new war of the cities was found however to have significantly changed the mood of the Security Council, whose unanimous support for an arms embargo against Iran had "dissolved" early in 1988.

Military sanctions were already being applied almost universally against Iran, and with Britain's policy not to supply either side, the report urged the government to take "urgent diplomatic action" to similarly discourage arms sales by others especially in Europe, where France has been Iraq's main supplier in the West.

For negotiations to proceed towards a settlement in the war, it felt that "unpalatable compromises" would have to be made by both sides, but suggested the UN could show "more flexibility" towards Iran if Tehran reciprocated.

Mirzadeh, PRC Ambassador Discuss Economic Ties

LD3006211788 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 30 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 30, IRNA—Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Wang Benzuo met Deputy for Executive Affairs and head of joint Tehran-Beijing Economic Cooperations Commissions Hamid Mirzadeh here Wednesday.

The two discussed expansion of bilateral cooperations and the 4th session of the joint Economic Cooperations Commission due to be held in Beijing.

Benzuo expressed satisfaction over the existing level of ties between Iran and China and added that mutual economic relations have improved of late. The present volume of trade exchanges is the highest ever in the history of the two countries' trade ties, he added.

Pointing to the existing bottlenecks in the two countries' fisheries accord, the ambassador called for maximum use of resources by both sides.

The Iranian deputy premier in response thanked Benzuo for his efforts in expanding mutual ties and strengthening commercial. economic and technical relations, and stressed that "Islamic Iran's ties with the People's Republic of China are highly significant."

Mirzadeh hoped that the fourth joint economic commission session would prepare the grounds for further strengthening of Tehran-Beijing mutual ties, adding that the major part of a letter of understanding signed by the two has been implemented. Bilateral commercial relations have steadily improved over the past twelve months, he concluded.

Shahbazi, Mo'ayeri, Larijani View War in Gulf

LD0307191988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 3 Jul 88

[From the "Sacred Defense" program]

[Excerpts] [Presenter] Our correspondent has interviewed Lieutenant General Shahbazi, chief of the joint staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces. You will hear this interview in this part of the program.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Many thanks for granting us this interview. I think the first question in the minds of our dear listeners concerns the latest reports from the warfronts. Could you please inform us briefly of the latest developments at the fronts before dealing with the main theme of our talk about the Navy?

[Shahbazi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God, the situation at the warfronts is stable. In some cases where the Iraqi Ba'thist regime had conducted lightning attacks, our combatants, particularly those of the Iranian Ground Forces, dealt telling blows in return. I personnaly witnessed some of these. I spoke to our friends at the fronts, who gave their word that they will stand firmly in the face of the Ba'thist regime's aggressions. We have plans on hand which, with God's blessings, will deal them a telling blow.

[Correspondent] About our questions to do with the Navy. General, as chief of the Joint Staff, how do you rate the Navy's readiness following the engagement with the United States in the Persian Gulf?

[Shahbazi] The Navy's combat readiness following the engagement with the U.S. aggressive forces, praise be to God, is excellent. They enjoy a desirable state of readiness. The engagement of the Iranian Navy with the U.S. Navy gave us the benefit of realizing our combat capability against the most mighty naval forces in the world. The Navy has shown that it has the capability to combat this force.

This was proved once again during the great Zolfaqar-3 exercises in which the three services of the armed forces participated soon after the engagements. The quality of equipment and facilities used by the Navy during the exercises was many times more than the amount that had been available for use for many years, and this is a sign of great victory for our Navy.

[Correspondent] The U.S. Congress has been gripped by a domestic conflict about policies—whether to allow Reagan a free hand on the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf region. On this topic, how do you rate the chances of the United States and other NATO military forces in the Persian Gulf?

[Shahbazi] My understanding is that the United States will never be successful in the Persian Gulf. This is known in the United States; and as noted by His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsnjani, the Persian Gulf will become the graveyard of the Americans. It is true that as far as the U.S. Navy system is concerned, it is a powerful one; but it cannot ignore the guerilla operations by the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps naval units. The United States has always feared these forces, and has not been able to end its constant alert. I am sure that it has received blows in this manner.

[Correspondent] At a recent meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev in Moscow, discussions must have included the topic of the U.S. military presence. On the other hand, we have witnessed the USSR Government's inaction over U.S. adventurism in the Persian Gulf. How do you view the outcome of such collusion between the superpowers against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and what do you think will be the results this?

[Shahbazi] This is more of a political question. However, solely from the military viewpoint I can say that whatever their understanding the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces, particularly the Iranian Navy in the south, will forcefully withstand any act of aggression. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Now dear friends, let us listen to comments of Mo'ayeri, prime ministerial advisor on political affairs, about the unprincipled stands adopted by the Persian Gulf littoral states in allowing the Americans to arrive in the region.

[Begin Mo'ayeri recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to all listeners, particularly to our proud sons at the fronts of the right-against-wrong war. I see it as befitting here today to note some points as a background to the above development. As all my esteemed compatriots are aware, after the war broke out some of the Persian Gulf littoral states unfortunately took up very illogical stances vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran and some others took sides regardless of being unbiased in the war. [passage omitted]

Although we had conveyed the message to all our neighbors soon after the revolution—including the Persian Gulf regional states—that the Islamic Republic of Iran was ready to begin friendly relations on the basis of mutual respect, and despite our sincerity and reaching out toward all Persian Gulf states in order to achieve Islamic and friendly relations, some states were not sincere toward us. Of course, we have very good relations and contacts with the majority of the Persian Gulf states. Some states have realized the problems very well and have taken logical approaches. However, some have taken very hostile stands against the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

Kuwait, by declaring that its vessels would be under U.S. flags and protection, thus opening the way for the United States and NATO forces into the Persian Gulf, tried to bring pressure to bear on Iran in order to persuade the Islamic Republic to give up its sacred defense. Some other countries also helped it. We have seen that while the United States and NATO fleets maintained their presence in the region not only did security not return to the region but attacks against vessels increased, leading to less security in the region. [passage omitted]

They had thought of a short-term plan, but seeing the decisive approach Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive approach made them realize that such acts could not dissuade the Islamic Republic from pursuing its principled and rightful stands. [passage omitted]

In the past 7 and ½ years of war, we have seen that whenever we resisted—as is reflected in all fields—by pursuing our own approach we have been successful. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] We would like to remind the dear listeners that in the present stage of the war, the world mass media are more inclined to publish facts about the war, for example, the fact that the Ba'thist regime is the aggressor. Whether this inclination originates from the truth-seeking nature of the bosses of the mass media in the world or whether it stems from something else is the question we asked Larijani, the esteemed under secretary at the Foreign Affairs Ministry. We invite you to listen to his analysis:

[Begin Larijani recording] With regard to the propaganda in the world mass media about announcing Saddam as the aggressor and ending the war in a peaceful manner, there are several points to be discussed.

First, there is Iran itself. We did not begin the war and we do not want the war. The fact is that there is an aggressor in the region. This aggressor has attacked Iran this time. If it become more powerful in the future it might attack Iran and (?other countries) again. The United Nations and the Security Council are dutybound to stand against the aggressor. The world can take part in this stand against the aggressor.

Our main issue is that there should be a stand against the aggressor. Ending the war is not a main issue. If the aggressor is confronted, the war would end and the problem of security in the region will be solved too. But if they try to end the war while supporting the aggressor, the war will obviously continue. The guns might stop firing today, but they will start firing again tomorrow, worse than before. Therefore, the main issue is to confront the aggressor.

The fact that this has been reflected in the press is due to several reasons. First is that the world public has seen the ugly face of the aggressor more clearly after the crimes in Halabjah. People did not believe that today, in the 20th Century, there exists a regime and a leader who would commit such crimes. Saddam has committed several crimes to date. One is the act of aggression in itself. The international laws and regulations, including the 1974 ratifications of the UN General Assembly, consider the sheer act of aggression as a crime against humanity as a whole. Second, during the war Saddam has committed various war crimes such as attacking residential areas and using chemical weapons.

Then there is the crime of mass slaughter. We have legislation against mass slaughter which is aimed at preventing such acts and punishing those who have perpetrated it. Saddam committed this grave crime in Halabjah. For the first time, the world became familiar with a part of Saddam's crime.

Today many countries which have good relations with Saddam and the Iraqi regime are reconsidering their dealings with such a regime. Also, they are thinking about paying Iran and getting Iran's consent to maintain the aggressor in power. This idea has occurred to some. What they can give Iran can either be in the form of reparations or insults to Saddam or in the form of imposing certain things on Saddam.

In return, Iran is to turn a blind eye to the issue of aggression and punishment of aggressor. Iran in turn is supposed to accept an end to the war and accept that the aggressor will remain in power.

Therefore, it is important that we should be aware. Although it is quite desirable that Saddam should be announced as the aggressor, it is too late now. We insist that the aggression should be quashed. We have no doubts on this score. [end recording]

Guards Corps Commander Reviews 'Hold Fast' Plan
LD0607152388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0745 GMT 6 Jul 88

[From the "Holy Defense" feature]

[Excerpts] As you were informed at the beginning of this program, the reports which you will hear in this program include an interview with Brother Mosleh, commander of the Sarallah Corps of the 1st Division, regarding the "Hold Fast" plan, the critical stage of the war, and the need for the dispatch of volunteer forces to the battlefields of the war between light and darkness:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] As previously announced, the Sarallah Corps of the 1st Division has drawn up a plan for the strengthening of districts and resistance bases under its command. It is called the "Hold Fast" plan. Can you please tell us the special features and the main goals of the plan?

[Mosleh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merficul. [passage omitted] The most important part of your question concerns enemy activities. In the war which we are engaged in we should organize our fighting activities in keeping with the scale of the war, the particular circumstances of the war, the enemy situation, and the enemy's military organization so that we can confront the enemy as well as be able to continue our tactics and practices.

One of the issues which we are faced with in the year 67 [beginning 22 March 1988] throughout the country, especially in the Tehran and Central provinces, is the question of expanding the resistance of the Guards Corps and the mobilization forces, and strengthening and expanding the combat organization of the Guards Corps.

In the year 67 we have a plan called the "Hold Fast" plan, according to which all the mobilization forces which have been sent to the fronts in the past or have received training will be reorganized in this new framework. They will be provided with certain facilities which, unfortunately, we have not yet had due to the shortages in the mobilization resistance bases and mobilization resistance districts. Combat missions will be organized within this new organization.

In other words, part of this plan's aim is to make all the mobilization resistance districts and resistance bases have independent responsibility for the war. To this end, they will be organized within the framework of the "Hold Fast" plan. Reserve organizations will be set up. In order to implement this plan, we must strengthen our resistance districts and our resistance bases. I would like to take this opportunity to ask the officials of the country, of these two provinces, to provide their assistance to the mobilization brothers in all spheres, to investigate their needs, to prioritize their work in organizations and government departments so that, God willing, they can coordinate activities behind the lines with those at the fronts and so that we can achieve our goals.

[Reporter] In view of the present conditions and the special circumstances which our country is facing in the imposed war and from world conspiracies, our nation expects all economic and political activities, as well as all activities in the fields of arts, propaganda, and cultural

affairs to be used to serve the war. As an official who is concerned with the issue of the war, please give us your views about the need to do this.

[Mosleh] If I am to give a full answer to this question, we should first investigate the reasons why the war has lasted for about 93 months; and secondly, why, despite the fact that we have delivered deadly blows at the enemy and despite the fact that at the moment we have more than 60,000 Iraqi POW's in the country—and this has been a major blow which the Islamic revolution has delivered at the enemy—why, despite all of these things, has Iraq started new activities in the year 67. Why has the enemy become more ambitious and more savage, and why have world pressures on the Islamic revolution increased at this juncture, simultaneously with enemy activities? [passage omitted]

The first reason is that Iran has not made full use of its opportunities. The second reason is the matter of hesitation, and I wish to stress this factor further. The hesitation factor means both fighting and not fighting. Under present conditions we cannot adhere to the policy of both fighting and not fighting, devoting resources for reconstruction as well as devoting resources to the war. All of this means hesitation in the war. We should get rid of this hesitation which might, first of all, exist in the depths of our own minds.

Secondly, this hesitation should be eliminated from society. In general, any hesitation regarding the war which has been imposed on the Islamic Republic should be eliminated from the 53 million inhabitants of the country. There should be only one slogan, namely the decrees and the orders of the imam and their implementation. We should be clear in our minds that we are determined to fight, that there is no hesitation regarding this matter.

The third factor is the issue of fast and timely decision-making in the war. If we do not take the necessary decisions quickly and in keeping with the conditions of the times, if we do not take timely decisions in the third war [as heard], which started in the year 67, then we have lost the war.

Therefore, the answer which I should give you is that, first of all , we should not hesitate on the issue of the war. Secondly, in order to bring the war to the desired conclusion and to be successful in the third war we should devote all our resources, our propaganda, cultural, artistic, economic, political, and military resources to serve the war. The cabinet itself should be turned into a war cabinet.

We do not have two governments, one for the war and one for the management of the country. The prime minister should be responsible for the war. And thanks to God, the members of the cabinet have been, are, and will be in the war. The ministers should be responsible officials for the war, and the armed forces should be in their service. The people should be in the service of the military forces and the war officials so that we can decide the matter.

Thanks be to God, with the decree which was issued by the imam of the ummah to His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani, instead of expressing our congratulations to him, instead of sending telegrams or messages to him—although these things are good—we should put our uniforms on. In the words of the imam we should tighten our belts, and be at his service like Imam Husayn. According to the orders of the imam, we are all awaiting the orders of the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and we should be present in the war side-by-side with him. We should be present in the fronts side-by-side with him.

The very fact that he has been appointed to lead the war—and may God grant him long life so that he may succeed in this mission—means we should not support him only with slogans. In any case, all of us, together with all our capabilities, should be awaiting the command so we can bring the war to a successful conclusion.

[Reporter] As you know, with the sudden activities of the mercenary Iraqi armed forces, the imposed war has come to a point where the extensive and rapid dispatch of trained forces can seriously affect the fate of the war. Could you give us some details about the need for the extensive deployment of popular forces in the context of combat units and in the context of specialized combat forces for the sake of continuing the blows of the fighters of Islam.

[Mosleh] Under the present conditions, the war has reached a sensitive stage. It has been nearly 93 months since the war started, and the enemy has carried out a number of activities on the fronts. Unfortunately, it has been successful in some of those operations. At the moment, we are entering a new stage. I can say that at the present juncture we are in the third stage of the war, or in the third war. The first stage was when Iraq launched its aggression against us and invaded the cities of our country. The second stage was when we pushed back the enemy and went toward achieving our rights. The third stage started a short while ago, and the enemy has started new operations.

The Islamic Republic has adopted two plans for tactics at this juncture, and has made many extensive plans for those tactics. However, in order to implement these tactics and these programs, the public must always be attentive to the orders of the officials responsible for the conduct of the war and the officials of the country. Under the present conditions it is possible for rumors and for incitement and many such things to be very widespread due to the fact that the loudspeakers of foreign countries, blasphemous countries, are engaged in

incitement. However, at the moment, the people's main duty is to await the orders of the war officials and the oficials of the country, and to act according to their instructions.

To implement one of the tactics to which I referred, under the present conditions we need to dispatch forces. Some of our cities have already started this dispatch, under the title of His Holiness Mohammad forces, on the occasion of tne anniversary of the 28 June martyrs. These dispatches are to assist our staged tactics on the battlefronts and because in the third stage of the war we should respond to enemy operations.

The people have one responsibility in this matter, and the officials also have a responsibility. Fortunately, with the appointment of His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani as acting commander in chief of the armed forces, he has started some extensive activities which will be announced in the near future. And he will clearly define the responsibility of those who are in charge of the war and in charge of the country. We, too, have another responsibility. We should always be at their side, and our presence in a formal manner should be with those dispatched, which the war officials will announce. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Musavi-Ardabili Speech on Battlefront Issues
LD0207103388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, head of the Supreme Court, who is visiting Tabriz on the occasion of Law Week, today participated in the Friday prayers ceremonies in that city and delivered a speech on questions of the battlefronts and the war and the necessity for all-round participation by the people on this vital matter.

According to a Central News report, the head of the Supreme Court referred to the issues of the fronts and the war and described the stands adopted by the superpowers and reactionary countries of the region in their support for the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime. He said: In spite of its all-round support in terms of arms, forces, financial loans, and propaganda-global arrogance, contrary to all international conventions, placed a countless amount of chemical weapons at the disposal of Saddam. The result of this deployment was seen by the people of the world, in cities, villages and (?rural districts).

Mr Musavi-Ardabili, continuing his remarks, exposing the propaganda conspiracies of colonialists, said: Following the investigations made and reviews and studies carried out on the current situation in Iran and the philosophy of war, a final decision has been made to continue the war, to mobilize all resources and place them at the service of the war, and defend the realm of Islam and the achievements of the Islamic Revolution until final victory. And we call on the ever-present-on-the-scene people who hitherto have actively participated in the dispatches to the fronts, have safeguarded the rear, have secured the war's funding and have chanted the slogan: war, war until victory, to defend the real of Islam until the emergence of final victory.

UN Chemical Experts Visit Khuzestan Province
LD0207182488 Tehran IRNA in English 1813 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., July 2, IRNA—The visiting UN team of chemical experts visited the operational regions chemically bombed by the Iraqi regime in Khuzestan Province and filed reports Saturday.

The UN probe team took some shrapnels of Iraqi chemical bombs to test them.

The 3-man UN delegation also visited some chemical victims under treatment in one of the hospitals in this province and filed reports.

The team comprising Manuel Dominguez, Erick Dahlgren and Vincente Ernesto Berastegui arrived in Iran yesterday to probe war zones contaminated by Iraqi use of internationally-banned chemical bombs.

Tehran Commentary Views Need To Continue War
NC0207084988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] The Supreme War Support Council recently issued a statement on the developments on the war fronts and the latest overtures by the enemy, at the same time pointing to the need for mobilized potentials and for the presence of our brave youth on the war fronts.

The point is that when the trend in the war started to change and the phase of continuous retreats by the Iraqi regime and of victories by the combatants of Islam started, world arrogance tried to put forth peace plans and to speak about the need for both sides to return to international borders. This was done to prevent Iran's wants from materializing and to keep certain developments from emerging within Iran which could have definitely led to profound changes in the region.

However, the failure of these efforts made reaction and arrogance strengthen and arm the Iraqi regime. This blocked the path to Iran's military victory and paved the way for imposing a peace on the Islamic Republic of Iran, so much so that at one point the U.S. forces directly gathered in the Persian Gulf and hoisted the U.S. flag on Kuwaiti ships, overtly undertaking their protection. Moreover, in a later stage, this protection was extended to include all ships that called for U.S. military assistance.

Of course, the true objective behind this was to give Iraq a free hand in attacking ships that carried Iranian oil. This in turn was a step to limit the retaliatory operations by speedboats, which were basically aimed at limiting Iraq's mischiefs and at returning calm to the Persian Gulf region.

Furthermore, while chemical warfare was gradually becoming a weapon openly used by the Iraqi Army, international forums and organizations—and especially the Reagan administration—did their best to prevent the concentration of international pressures on Saddam's regime and to pave the way for the extensive use of this deadly weapon. And they did this because they themselves are very well aware of the effects that chemical weapons have, as they are also well aware of the deterrent role that international pressures can play in limiting such crimes.

This went so far that even after the calamitous Halabjah incident and the massacre of more than 5,000 Iraqi residents, the Reagan administration did not confront the Saddam regime and very disgracefully tried to condemn Iran, alleging its use of chemical weapons. By equating Iran and Iraq, it hoped to distract world public attention from the abominable and inhuman nature of Saddam's regime and from the oppression on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Moreover, Iraq's missile attacks on the cities were also unjustifiably and openly tolerated by international forums, and the Reagan administration too has constantly tried—while overtly supporting Iraq's regime—to pave the way for the approval of the resolution calling for an arms embargo on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Of course, it should be noted that all these efforts were not limited to the governments in the West. Arab reaction and governments of the East also played special roles in this.

At any rate, comparing the Iraqi Army's present situation with its former one clearly shows the investments made and the extensive efforts exerted in order to mitigate its weaknesses and strengthen its potentials in confronting the army of Islam.

Since all these efforts will definitely not be limited to the present but will continue in the future too, in a form suited to the enemy's conditions and situation, so should—in view of the reality of the recent months—the continuation of the struggle by the combatants of Islam also be ensured through programs that are suited to the present conditions and through the mobilization of potentials and forces within the framework of the exigencies of the day. This is because, basically speaking, if the determination and wants of a nation can be molded within a calculated, realistic, and orderly framework, they can ultimately remove obstacles and problems and bring forth success and final victory, especially since the selflessness, bravery, and decisiveness of the Iranian nation in the past years have often shown the extent of their decisive power in upsetting commonly used international and regional calculations and formulas.

At any rate, in view of the existing conditions on the whole, the officials and the nation should, while heeding the sensitivity of this present juncture in time, each play their part in paving favorable grounds for the continuation of the struggle until final victory is achieved. The brave Iranian ummah has shown, both during and after the years of the revolution, that it has not allowed itself the least bit of doubt as far as defending Islam and the ideals of the revolution are concerned. It has always made its objective the valuable words of Imam Husayn, who said that life is nothing but belief and struggle for belief.

Mobilization Forces Leave for Battlefront

Convoy Leaves Kazerun, Larestan

LD0207124288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that a large number of fresh mobilization forces under the title of Special 7th Tir Convoy left Kazerun to join the fighters of Islam at the war zones. Another group of mobilization forces from Larestan left for the war zones as part of the forces of His Holiness Muhammad, God's benediction and blessings be upon him and his kin.

Volunteers Leave Fars

LD0207191588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] The departure of fresh popular forces for the battlefronts continued today when a large number of volunteer forces of the Mobilization of the Oppressed left Fars Province and towns in southern Khorasan for the war zones as part of the convoy of the forces of His Excellency Muhammad, peace and God's mercy be upon him and his clan.

Other Groups Depart

LD0407172888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Summary] Groups of mobilization forces yesterday left the towns of Bonab, Ajab Shir, (Malekan), Azaran, and Maragheh for the war front.

Other groups of mobilization forces, as part of the Muhammad Corps, from various parts of the provinces of Khuzestan, Mazandaran, eastern Azarbayjan, Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyew, Sistan va Baluchestan and Yazd, today left the towns of Ahvaz, Sari, Tabriz, Ardebil, Do Gonbadan, Zahedan, and Yazd for the battlefronts. The departing mobilization forces were seen off by local people in each town, shouting slogans such as Death to America.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Iraq Bombs Sar Dasht

LD0607104288 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., July 6, IRNA—Iraqi fighters bombed farmlands in three villages of Sar Dasht, northwestern Iran twice at 06:00 hours and 06:30 hours local time (2:30 and 03:00 hours GMT) today.

The bombing caused fire in wheat farms ruining large reserves of winter fodder.

Air Force Bombs Panjwin

LD0607172188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] According to the report of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], at 1150, 1200, 1800, and 1815 today, pilots of the IRI Air Force, flying fighter-bombers, bombed enemy positions, fortifications, and armored equipment in the operational zones of (Sharhani), Zubaydah, and Panjwin. They returned safely to base after having inflicted considerable casualties and damage on the Zionist enemy.

Communique No 3,255

LD0607182788 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters in four separate sorties heavily bombed Iraqi positions, troop concentration sites and armoured units in Sharhani [name as received] and Zubaydah, southern sector, and Panjwin, N.W. fronts Wednesday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them.

The 3255th joint staff communique, announcing the above, reported here today that all fighters returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out the bombing missions which took place at 11:50, 12:00, 18:00 and 18:05 hours local time (08:20, 08:30, 14:30 and 14:35 GMT).

At least 50 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and three enemy munitions dumps set ablaze in a southern war theater by Iranian artillery fire Tuesday.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire routed Iraqi patrol units in Panjwin, northwestern sector, and destroyed some enemy tanks in Kelaleh, [name as received] western sector, yesterday.

Iraqi motorized columns moving in Chwartah, Hajj-'Umran, Naft-e Shah, Mandali, Khohnehrig [place name as received], Nahr'Anbar, Zubaydah suffered heavy losses Tuesday when hit by Iranian artillery fire.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and over five enemy gun emplacements and observation posts destroyed in artillery duels with Iranian gendarmerie forces yesterday, concluded the communique.

Iraq Bombs Kordestan Village

LD0607194188 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestin Prov., July 6, IRNA—Intruding Iraqi warplanes today bombarded a village near Baneh (Kordestan Prov.) at about 10:30 hours local time (07:00 GMT).

The Enemy planes inflicted material losses upon the villagers, using cluster bombs during their brutal attack. However there are no reports of any casualties.

Shelling Claims Denied

LD0707063588 Tehran IRNA in English 0625 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters categorically denied an Iraqi claim Wednesday that Iran had shelled its Darband-I Khan region, Tuesday.

The spokesman reiterated that Iraqi claims are set forth at a time when several villages and residential areas in the vicinity of Iran's Sar Dasht, Baneh and Darkhovin in west Azarbaijan, Kordistan and Khuzestan Provinces were attacked by Iraqi war planes and artillery units on Wednesday.

He said these claims by the Iraqi regime while it continues to bomb Iran's residential areas and border villages, was not anything new. He added that they only aimed at justifying Iraq's own mischievous acts.

Iraq Bombs Khuzestan

LD0707072888 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes bombed several villages in Darkhovin region, Khuzestan province Wednesday martyring eight villagers and wounding a few others.

The intruding planes also raided Sar Dasht border villages, Northwestern Iran at 16:18 hours local time (12:48 GMT) Wednesday inflicting some casualties and losses.

Chief Justice Comments on Pardon for Prisoners

LD0207124688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] [Chief Justice] Musavi-Ardabili, who has been on a visit to Tabriz on the occasion of Law Week in order to participate in a meeting reviewing the judical issues of the western and eastern provinces of Azarbaijan and Zanjan, announced in an exclusive interview with the Central News Unit that:

At any point when it is felt that the minigroup prisoners have turned their backs on their organizational positions and pose no danger to the revolution and the order of the Islamic Republic, they will be pardoned. The head of the State Supreme Court, who then described the results of his trip, remarked: What I have seen during my trip to East Azarbaijan Province was the collaboration that existed between the executive and judicial officials. And this will contribute to solve many of the problems.

In connection with determining the fate of assets and properties the owners of which are not known, he said: Those assets and properties that belong to owners who have been identified as guilty and who have left the country, or who are being prosecuted, will be requisitioned and will be placed at the service of the fronts and the war.

Such properties and assets, after being confiscated, used to be placed at the disposal of various centers, including the Foundation of the Oppressed and the 5 June Foundation.

Pakistan

Court Passes Death Sentence on 5 Palestinians

BK0607155088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] A special court in Rawalpindi passed death sentence on five Palestinians who were involved in the incident of hijacking of a plane at the Karachi Airport on 5 September 1986.

The court told the accused that they have the right to appeal against the verdict and the sentence in the Lahore High Court within 30 days.

President Backs Indian Ocean Peace Zone Proposal

BK0307085888 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] President Muhammad Ziaul Haq has called for making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace so that its resources are exploited by the countries of the region for improving the condition of their people. He was inaugurating in Islamabad today the first meeting of the intergovernmental oceanographic commission program group for the central Indian Ocean.

He said we must realize (?singularly) and collectively that the economic resources of the Indian Ocean will not be available to the littoral states of the region unless they are able to work for them peacefully and in cooperation with each other.

Unfortunately, he pointed out, the Indian Ocean is not trouble-free at the present moment and we cannot explore and utilize the economic resources of the central Indian Ocean until there is a climate of peace all around and within the region.

He said it is, therefore, Pakistan's effort to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, and we wholeheartedly support the international declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly at its 25th session in this regard.

The president emphasized that the sea could provide us with considerable resources for improving the living standards of our people, many of whom are leading the lives of deprivation and hunger. The ocean contains fabulous wealth which lies waiting for discovery and utilization. It is, therefore, incumbent on the littoral states of the region to take bold and imaginative steps for getting control over the natural phenomenon through the application of modern science and sophisticated technology.

DAWN Reports on Annual Budget for 1988-89

'Surplus' Budget Presented

BK0207173088 Karachi DAWN in English 27 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, June 26—The Federal Minister for Finance in the Caretaker Government, Dr Mahbubul Haq, presented a revenue "surplus" budget of Rs [rupees] 186.39 billion, proposing additional taxation measures amounting to Rs 13.25 billion and envisaging a saving of one billion in administrative expenditures, of Rs 2.5 billion in defence and of another one billion rupees in development expenditure.

However, the overall deficit in the next year's budget is estimated at Rs 52.27 billion, including Rs 24 billion of internal borrowing, and Rs 28.27 billion of external borrowing.

While the budget documents do not mention details of internal borrowing, the 'Budget Brief' document, however, says that net capital receipts of the Federal Government are expected to decrease from Rs 25.35 billion to Rs 24 billion or by 5.3 percent. "The decrease is mainly because no new loan is being floated during the year."

The resources, both internal and external, are to be generated through revenue receipts, capital receipts, self financing by autonomous bodies and foreign aid in the new budget.

Internal resources are estimated at Rs 140.90 billion with revenue receipts (net) bringing in Rs 116.85 billion and capital receipts borrowing netting in Rs 24 billion. Self-financing by autonomous bodies is estimated to bring in Rs 400 million.

Total receipts from external resources are estimated at Rs 28.27 billion.

This will mean total resources amounting to Rs 169.18 billion for a total outlay of Rs 186.39 billion showing a resource gap of Rs 17.21.

In the next year's budget the expenditure on defence has increased to Rs 48.32 billion or by 6.7 percent over the revised estimates, while transfer of resources to provinces as their share in the divisible pool of taxes has increased substantially.

The provinces will now receive Rs 18 billion during 1988-89 which will be higher by Rs 1.9 billion or 11.7 percent than last year's revised estimates.

The additional taxation of Rs 13.25 billion includes Rs 1.7 billion from central excise duties, Rs 5 billion from sales tax, Rs 4 billion from customs duties and Rs 2.5 billion from income and wealth tax.

The inclusion of agricultural incomes in the total income for tax purposes is estimated to bring in Rs 100 million only, while income tax surcharge at the rate of 10 percent on income of Rs 200,000 or more will bring in about Rs 760 million.

Sales tax at the rate of (?12-1/2) percent on cement is estimated to bring in one billion rupees and from mild steel products Rs 875 million.

Export duty on cotton is estimated to net Rs 2 billion, increase of import surcharge rate from 5 to 6 percent will yield Rs 1.1 billion, and extra revenue consequent on the fixation of ITPs [expansion unknown] for import, subject to ad val [valorem] rates, is expected to bring in another one billion rupees.

Allocations Noted

BK0207162888 Karachi DAWN in English 27 Jun 88 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, June 26—Rs [rupees] 50,127,633,000 have been allocated for the Ministry of Defence in the Federal Budget for the year 1988-89.

The share of the Defence Division is Rs 2,034,406,000, Aviation Division is Rs 175,692,000, Defence Production Division Rs 13,096,000, Meteorology Rs 63,501,000, Survey of Pakistan 104,938,000, while the budget for Defence Services would be Rs 47,736,000.

The allocations for the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions and Kashmir Affairs during the next budget is Rs 4,370,301,000.

This amount would be divided into about 10 sections, including states and frontier regions, Frontier constabulary, Federally-Administered Tribal Areas, ex-rulers allowances, Afghan refugees, Kashmir Affairs, and northern areas.

An amount of Rs 58,136,000 has been allocated to nine research organisations, functioning under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

These include Pakistan Science Foundation, National Committee on International Hydrological Decade, Pakistan Council of Science and Technology, Pakistan Museum of Natural History, Pakistan Council of Appropriate Technology, Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Centre, National Institute of Electronics, National Institute of Silicon Technology and National Centre for Technology Transfer.

The allocations in the new budget for Women Division has marginally increased over the last year.

A sum of Rs 7,187,000 have been earmarked for Women Division to meet expenses of the year 1988-89 against Rs 8,037,000 allocated last year.

The allocations for education had been increased in the new budget. A sum of Rs 1,745,373,000 would be provided to the Ministry of Education for the next financial year.

The amount had been increased in all the three heads under the Ministry including Ministry of Education, Federal Government educational institutions and education as compared to the last year provisions.

The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Cooperatives would be provided Rs 2,337,033,000 for the next fiscal year.

A major share of Rs 2,080,547,000 would go under the head of "subsidy on wheat".

The allocations for the Production Ministry has recorded a short-fall of over 100 percent in the new budget.

The allocations for the year 1988-89 would be Rs 100,352,000 against the last year budget of Rs 210,327,000.

Budget allocations for the Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism and Youth Affairs has been marginally increased for the year 1988-89 in the new budget as compared to the last year.

An amount of Rs 191,395 thousands have been allocated for the ministry. The Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs Division will get Rs 11,662 thousand while archaeology and museum were being allocated Rs 31,238 thousands. Tourism Division will get Rs 26,429,000 as compared Rs 22,733,000 of the last year.

Briefs

FRG Financial Aid

The Federal Republic of Germany is to give financial aid of 288 million marks, equivalent to $157 million, to Pakistan in 1988-89. The FRG has already pledged to Pakistan a financial aid of 133 million marks, most of which will be spent on the completion of Chasma Barrage. The FRG also provided 65 million marks for this purpose last year. Under the new aid program, funds have been allocated for the development of rural and underdeveloped areas of North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan. The aid for Pakistan this year has been increased by 50 percent compared to that of last year. [Excerpt] *[BK0207090588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Jul 88]*

Sri Lanka

Hameed Expresses Sympathy Over Plane Downing

BK0607162688 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1237 GMT 6 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 6 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan Minister of Foreign Affairs A.C.S. Hameed, in a message to Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati, has expressed his great distress to learn of the shooting of a civilian aircraft of the Islamic Republic of Iran with 298 [figure as received] passengers and crew on board.

He further said in his message, I am saddened at the loss of innocent lives and would appreciate your extending to the bereaved families our sympathy in their hour of grief, in a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo.

Jayewardene: North, East War To 'End Soon'

BK0407170588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1235 GMT 4 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text) Colombo, July 4 (Lankapuvath)— Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene yesterday said that he was happy to announce that the war in the north and east would end soon. Then we can concentrate on ending the war in the south, he said.

Today's DAILY NEWS states the president, who was the chief guest at the concluding ceremony of the Gamudawa 88 exhibition at Anamaduwa also said that neither the president's term of office nor the life of Parliament could be extended even by a day without the consent of the people.

Thousands of people who lined the roads in the neighbourhood of the exhibition grounds greeted President Jayewardene, Prime Minister and Mrs Premadasa and other VIPs when they drove to the exhibition.

Earlier, President Jayewardene said: "This is the 10th anniversary of the Gamudawa Movement. I have attended all the other anniversary celebrations from the inception because I am aware of the great principles of the Gamudawa Movement and the vast benefits accruing to the people from it.

"There are people bent on criticising this type of work. Every human action has some degree of error. Our duty is to correct our errors, if any, by paying heed to such criticism.

"During my tour of the exhibition grounds today I witnessed the great efforts taken by the organisers to keep the grounds clean and tidy. The exhibition grounds had been beautifully landscaped with the grass mowed and plots of blooming roses, anthuriums, carnations, jasmines and other flower plants. The workers here had taken such an interest because the Prime Minister and Mrs Premadasa had a great love for flowers. The zinc roof of this hall has been decorated with bunting and 'reli palan' using the colours used by the ancient Sinhala artists.

"All this is possible because we are living in a country with a democratic constitution. According to our Constitution the president is elected by the people through a free vote.

"All progressive countries in the world elect their leader through the people's free vote. Now the Soviet Union is also trying to adopt the system we have adopted in 1977.

The president said, "The 30 lakhs of eligible voters in this country—now this may have increased to 40 lakhs—elect their president and members of parliament every 6 years. The president so elected has been vested with all executive powers. The period of office of the president or the life of Parliament cannot be extended even by a day without the consent of the people.

"We are the first nation which has guaranteed this right to the people by saying that the life of Parliament cannot be extended by a day without the consent of the people even if its entire membership agreed.

"The previous regime, which revised the peoples mandate for a period of 6 years, extended its life until 1977 without consulting the people. To protest against this, I recontested it.

"Our Constitution has also safeguarded the people's fundamental rights and freedoms. If a person feels that his fundamental rights had been infringed by the government or any institution, he can go to courts and seek redress. No other country has guaranteed these rights to the people in the Constitution in this manner.

"Some sections are now trying to deprive the people of these rights and freedom. We have to be careful of them."

The president said the presidential election has to be held before the end of this year and the general election by August next year. No one can postpone these elections even by a day. But if the president wishes he can advance the general election.

"We have had to face two wars since 1983. The killing of 13 soldiers in the north in July 1983 sparked off the war in the north and east.

"Millions of rupees had to be spent to fight this war in which hundreds of innocent people were killed. Owing to this war, development work slowed down and the people's problems could not be solved at the same pace evidenced before 1983.

"I am happy to announce today that the war in the north and east would end soon. Then we can concentrate on ending the war in the south and once again accelerate development work and generate more employment.

"Therefore, at this 10th anniversary celebration of the Gamudawa Movement, I wish to make an appeal to you all. You may be young or old or may belong to different political parties. But extend your full assistance and co-operation to the government in its endeavour to develop the country, find more employment opportunities and ease the economic burdens of the people," the president concluded.

AFP on Proposed Merger of Provinces

BK0107103088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1014 GMT 1 Jul 88

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, July 1 (AFP)—A government announcement of greater autonomy for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority is seen here as a prelude to a ceasefire between Indian troops and Tamil separatist guerrillas in the island's north and east.

President Junius Jayewardene announced Thursday a controversial merger of the Tamil-dominated Northern Province and the multi-ethnic Eastern Province subject to total disarming of the dominant Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The merged provinces would have one high court, a united council and Tamil would be given equal status as an official language with Sinhalese, spoken by the island's majority community, Mr Jayewardene said.

He said regional polls to elect a single chief minister for the combined provinces giving greater autonomy to the island's two million Tamil minority would be initiated by the end of the month.

Political analysts noted that the wideranging concessions came months ahead of presidential and general elections and that giving further concessions to Tamils would risk losing valuable Sinhalese votes in the south.

"The old man (as the 82-year-old president is sometimes called here) has put the ball back in the Tamil court. Now it's up to them (the rebels) to join the political process," a senior government official said.

But the Marxist Nava Sama Samaja Party (NSSP) said the concessions showed that the government was in a position of weakness as it could not militarily put down the Tamil rebellion.

"The government has been defeated and now it is forced to accept the de facto authority of the latent Tamil guerrillas in the two provinces," NSSP General Secretary Vikramabahu Karunaratne said.

Sri Lanka's main Tamil political leader Appapillai Amirthalingam said he was hopeful Mr Jayewardene's announcement would help bring about an early settlement to the conflict.

"The statement is only a promise (of the merger). But this indicates that there is something in the Madras talks between Indian officials and militants," Mr Amirthalingam told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Officials of India's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing, have reportedly been holding talks with LTTE leaders in the south Indian port city of Madras in a bid to end the eight-month guerrilla war against some 52,000 Indian troops.

An LTTE spokesman in Madras declined to comment on the concessions.

Mr Jayewardene also renewed an amnesty offer to Tamil guerrillas and said all detainees would be released after the LTTE surrendered all its arms.

Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi has told Colombo the LTTE has given "indications of their willingness to lay down arms and cooperate in the implementation of the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord," Mr Jayewardene said.

A spokesman for the left-wing Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front said India had offered about 35 million U.S. dollars to help rehabilitate LTTE cadres and 140 million dollars for fighters of five other militant groups.

"Our information is that the LTTE wants 3.2 million dollars in cash. But Indians want to give the money only through a rehabilitation monitoring committee. This is the only stumbling block now," the spokesman said.

He said a further 70 million dollars had been promised by New Delhi to rebuild war-damaged property of civilians in the two provinces.

Sri Lanka's main opposition party rejected the concessions announced by the government to Tamils in an effort to end the bloodshed which has claimed at least 9,500 lives since 1983.

Opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party spokesman said they were against merging the provinces and would campaign against it at the forthcoming elections.

The LTTE surrendered some weapons in August, but later repudiated the July peace accord and continued attacking rivals and majority Sinhalese, prompting an Indian offensive October 10 to disarm the group.

Since the October offensive, nearly 500 Indian soldiers have died. Over 2,000 suspected rebels have also died in combat.